

UN force in Lebanon faces withdrawal

United Nations peace-keeping force may pull out of Lebanon if harassment by the pro-Israeli Christian militia does not cease. Of its soldiers have been killed since 1978. Of them murdered. A United Nations withdrawal could lead to open conflict between Israel and Syria.

Israeli aid to Christian militia the crux

Robert Fisk
Southern Lebanon

Two years after it has taken control of Lebanon, the 6,000-strong United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) faces a bleak prospect of an imminent withdrawal from the country, unless the United Nations can prevent the Israeli political support to the Christian militia daily harassing Unifil.

United Nations officers in the 10 military contingents of Unifil make no secret of their conviction that a withdrawal would lead to a second invasion of Lebanon and a possibility of direct conflict between Israeli and Syrian forces. They also believe, a public protestation to the contrary by the countries that two nations and the Irish Republic unilaterally take their guns out of Lebanon the next 12 months. Appeals are being made to find potential recruits. The United Nations in New York has approached American countries but few have been met with the slightest enthusiasm. Troops from European countries are unlikely to be sent if because four of the contingents belong to countries, although it is a vague suggestion (and so far it is of the tenuous kind) that Mrs Thatcher may be asked to send a British battalion if the Dutch withdraw.

en soldiers in action

United Nations peace-keeping force was established in 1978 to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from their two-week invasion of Lebanon, and to return to the sovereignty of Lebanese Government. But took control of less than half of its allotted territory. Israeli-supplied militia prevented entry into a buffer zone along the Israeli frontier. In 1978 Unifil's problems, from decreasing, have got worse. Fifteen United Nations soldiers have been killed in action—in itself a misnomer, since two of them were murdered—and the militia

flocked several extra miles of United Nations territory by the simple of driving Israeli heavy tanks into the United Nations lines. The senior officer put it: "we can read the things that United Nations can do in New York, but you can see that United Nations contributions said at their Dublin base about 'determined' to stop harassment: here is nothing on the line." We cannot achieve an end unless political pressure is exerted. How much can you expect nations of soldiers on this peace-keeping mission and receive back in coffins?"

the circumstances which most concern military commanders are the following: United Nations now enter the Israeli enclave with the slightest pretence at flag. They drive past our gate of the United Nations headquarters at



A pall of ash and smoke 130 miles from the Mount St. Helens volcano in the United States. Six people are dead and 98 missing, report page 7

Muskie dig at French on failure to consult

From David Cross
Washington, May 20

Mr Edmund Muskie, the United States Secretary of State, today chided the French Government for its failure to consult Washington about President Giscard d'Estaing's recent talks with President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union.

Since this decision was taken before the killing of three Irish soldiers last month, senior United Nations officers fear the Dublin Government will veto any further troop contribution. Major Haddad has demanded that Irish troops publicly shake hands with the militiaman who boasted he murdered two Irish soldiers in a blood feud last month. If they do not do so in the next four days Major Haddad says, he "will not be able to control" the man's family from taking further revenge" on the Irish, who killed a militiaman in a gun battle last month.

Security impossible to achieve

United Nations officers on peace-keeping duty are not permitted to undertake active intelligence work or gather information about the forces opposed to them. Furthermore, security in United Nations areas is impossible to achieve. Christian militiamen, for example, work in the canton and other parts of Naqura camp. When the headquarters has come under fire, these men have seen to run from the camp and reappear moments later firing automatic rifles at United Nations troops. Yet they still remain in the camp.

Major Haddad is now taking United Nations officers hostage almost at will. When Dutch troops captured four of seven militiamen setting up a road checkpoint in the United Nations zone, Major Haddad—presumably with Israeli approval—ordered every United Nations soldier travelling in the enclave held hostage.

Unifil does not pretend to be a peace enforcement organization and its officers have no desire to "go to war" against the forces opposed to them. But at present there appears to be no serious political effort to neutralize Major Haddad's men or to place pressure on the Palestine Liberation Organization to stop infiltration attempts.

Giscard-Brezhnev meeting, page 5

Postal workers agree to productivity deals

Post Office employees decided to accept the principle of local productivity deals after being told by Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, that the alternative was the loss of jobs

Page 2

Arabs' ordeal to end

The Israeli authorities, faced by international protests and legal challenges at home, have decided to move two Arab families out of the deserted refugee camps, lacking water or electricity, where they had been sent as punishment.

Page 6

Fiery Strauss speech rallies party

A fighting speech from Herr Franz Josef Strauss rallied the Christian Democrats at their congress in West Berlin. Abandoning the role of prudent statesman he attacked the Schmidt Government with all the old fire missing since he became party leader. Herr Schmidt's attitude to the Western Alliance, he said, was "wrong, dangerous and fatal."

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Isle of Grain: Official picket line to be mounted by General and Municipal Workers Union in power station dispute

Woolworth fire report: Rules to be made to control display of furniture filled with polyurethane foam after Manchester store blaze

The Nordic Economies: A four-page Special Report examines financial developments in the five Nordic countries

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 8-10; Le Crème de la Crème, 8, 9; Personal, 30-32; Property, 7, 28-30

Page 21

TUC redraft ordered on secondary picketing

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Trade union leaders have rejected as too soft plans produced by TUC colleagues to combat the forthcoming Employment Act. They seem intent on defying the law on secondary picketing.

A confidential policy document prepared by TUC labour law experts suggested that it could be possible for unions to achieve their objectives "without picketing other than at their members' places of work". That would be in line with government thinking.

By cooperating with other unions or groups of workers, the paper argued, "it might be possible to avoid the need for 'secondary' picketing in some cases".

That formula has been rejected by union leaders on the TUC employment policy and organization committee. They say it could be construed as conforming with the new legal curbs on industrial action being introduced by Mr James Prior, the Employment Secretary.

The section of the TUC staff paper involved has been sent back for redrafting, as has a paragraph which originally read: "In order to avoid, as far as is practicable, the need for 'secondary' or sympathy action which incurs legal liability, it will be desirable for unions to coordinate and concert negotiations and industrial action wherever possible".

The clear implication of this rejection is that the union leaders do not want to rule out the option of secondary picketing as part of their normal armoury during disputes, although the law will make much previous activity illegal in future.

The TUC document concedes that in several disputes picketing at places of work, other than the pickets' own, has been "an important tactic". Disputes involving the miners, dockers and building workers

Continued on page 2, col 1

MPs say 'sus' law should be repealed

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

The Commons Home Affairs Committee has recommended the immediate repeal of the so-called "sus" law which has been criticized in recent years as discriminating against young blacks.

The committee concludes that repeal of the law will not, in any way, diminish the powers of the police to prevent crime. We are confident that there will be a gain to society in the improvement of police-black relations.

"Most importantly, the repeal of "sus" signifies the removal of a piece of law which is contrary to the freedom and liberty of the individual."

The law, in fact section 4 of the Vagrancy Act, 1824, makes it an offence to be "suspected of police to prevent crime".

Addressing the conference of the House of Commons, Mrs Thatcher insisted that a boy-cult was the "one way to bring home to the ordinary Russian people the enormity of what has happened by their Government invading Afghanistan".

In her letter, Mrs Thatcher said reports continued of Soviet "atrocities" in Afghanistan.

The same line of devolving the Moscow medals was taken yesterday by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who said they would now be "hardly 18-carat".

Addressing the conference of Tory women meeting in London, Lord Carrington said those who suggested it was wrong to mix sport and politics misinterpreted the amount of money the Soviet Union had laid out to ensure a propaganda victory.

Those who believed otherwise were "living in a dream world", he added.

Italians to go: Italy's National Olympic Committee announced that, despite yesterday's Cabinet decision against official participation at Moscow, Italian athletes would be going.

The committee estimates it can field about 200 competitors. There can be no national flag or anthem and servicemen will not be able to take part, but the Italian team will perform under the flag of the International Olympic Committee.

Weather forecast, page 2

Forest and heath fires doused by rain storms

As rain fell in parts of Britain yesterday, scores of heath and forest fires in many parts of the country were brought under control.

In the Peak District, where several fires had been raging since last week, exhausted firemen left some areas for the first time in days.

The Forestry Commission said the rain had reduced the fire danger in many places for the first time in six weeks.

More than 300 acres of commission woodland at Acreloch, Strathclyde, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night.

The commission estimates that more than 5,000 acres of woodland has been destroyed over the past few weeks and thousands of birds and animals have been killed. "It is the worst damage caused in such a short time", a spokesman said.

Weather forecast, page 2

A Village Romeo and Juliet, for ENON this evening

Obituary, page 18

Professor R. A. Smith, Miss Janet Hitchcock

Sport, pages 14, 15

Tennis: Mottram out of Italian

Championships; Athletics: Cee

Project; Men's challenge: Rugby

U.S.A.: Victoria Stephen to

John Lions as replacements: Foot

ball: Andy Gray of Scotland, to

miss game against Wales

Business, pages 21-27

Stock markets: Oils saw a swift

recovery as the profit takers

drifted away but other equities slipped back while gold dipped

most of the day. The FT Index

closed at 435.5 down 1.5

Financial Editor: A time for

prudence; "She'll" contribution

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HOME NEWS

Postal workers accept productivity deals after warning on jobs

From David Felton
Blackpool

Post Office workers yesterday decided to accept the principle of local productivity deals after warnings from Mr Tom Jackson, their union leader, that the alternative was lost jobs and the end of the corporation's letter monopoly.

The decision was a personal victory for Mr Jackson, who made a spirited defence of the productivity proposals, to be implemented experimentally in London from June 1. He also revealed details of a secret Post Office report outlining tougher management tactics.

Speaking to the Union of Post Office Workers' annual conference in Blackpool, Mr Jackson said instructions from the corporation to head postmasters, which had the backing of Mr Denis Roberts, managing director (Posts), included the insistence that postmasters did not "back away from industrial action".

The report also said that local management should raise productivity regardless of union reaction, and wipe out existing restrictive practices. Mr Jackson used the report as a warning to conference delegates hostile to local productivity deals.

"Don't you dare raise your hand against the proposals unless you are sure that you have got your troops behind you," he told them. The voting was

76,940 to 39,110 in favour of the deal, which is intended to eliminate large amounts of overtime working.

Postmen will receive 70 per cent of the savings made by the Post Office through overtime reductions; that is expected to put at least £5 to £7 more in their weekly pay packets. There is the possibility of further savings from the scheme if there are consistent improvements in the quality of the service.

The London scheme is expected to be used as a model for local deals, and Mr Jackson said the union was oversubscribed by branches who wanted to take part.

He warned that the "overtime king will suffer". One third of Britain's 450,000 postal workers do no overtime, but some offices are choked with overtime, and some of our people would rather sleep in the office than go home. One branch in London has an agreement to keep vacancies open so that they go on working overtime."

Mr Jackson was earlier in the year defeated by a special conference on productivity proposals he had recommended. He feared the Government would break up the Post Office's letter monopoly if the service was not improved.

Opposition to the proposals came from branches who claimed that previous union conferences had already decided a policy against local productivity deals.

Mass picket planned in Grain site dispute

From Donald Macintyre
Bournemouth

The General and Municipal Workers' Union last night put its industrial muscle behind a determined attempt to close the Isle of Grain power station site in Kent, in defence of 27 lager members who have been dismissed over bonuses since August.

Mr David Bassett, the union's general secretary, announced in Bournemouth yesterday, 75-minute meeting of his executive that an official picket line would be mounted at the gates.

The union is hoping that up to 6,000 thermal insulation workers at heavy construction sites throughout the country will stop work on Tuesday to take part in a mass picket at the site.

It further declared an official dispute with the main contractors at Grain, who during the past two weeks have been employing and training newly recruited men to take over the work of the GMWU members.

The decision brings to a head what is mainly an inter-union dispute between the GMWU and key mechanical unions at the site, who have given the contractors full cooperation in their use of substitute men.

Mr Bassett said last night: "We have striven to seek a peaceful solution. We have taken the matter to the TUC whose finance and general purposes committee considered the issue again on Monday, and we would still like a peaceful solution. But there is no alternative but to take action."



Photograph by Harry Kent

Mr Prior hits back: Defending his stand against rushing trade union legislation through Parliament, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, turned the TUC's day of action last week to his own advantage yesterday (Michael Hatfield writes). Mr Prior

(with Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of the Conservative Party, on his right), was faced with demands for tougher action by some delegates to the Conservative Women's Conference at Central Hall, Westminster. He said that if the Government had rushed legislation he

wondered what the reaction of ordinary trade unionists would have been to the day of action. As it was, May 14 had been a triumph for common sense and an indication that most trade unionists felt the Government was trying to be fair.

A panda that will chase you—but not too far

From Stewart Tendler
Scarborough

Faced with public spending cuts, the Nottinghamshire police force recently limited mileage on the only panda car in an inner city area to eight miles in every eight-hour shift, according to officers at the annual conference of the Police Federation in Scarborough yesterday.

The mileage restriction was tied to a monthly fuel quota. After complaints from policemen, the mileage was raised to 15 miles a shift. The area concerned is a subdivision less than a mile from the centre of Nottingham.

The policemen added that if the quota of miles is exceeded before the end of each month the car is taken off the road until the start of the next month.

Cars from the force's traffic departments provide the only reserve, and they, if free, take over until the panda is on the road again, or supplement it cover in emergencies. The policemen said that there have been instances when they have not been able to reach injured colleagues and other times, towards the end of a month, when they have had to go out and use up petrol to make sure the quota is used.

The matter arose at the conference when Mr Paul Middle, chairman of the constables' committee, used the Nottinghamshire case as an illustration to support a call to the Government to review its economic policy in the light of the needs of the police service.

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Mr Middle, of the South Yorkshire force, told the conference that cuts in equipment and support services for the police were "potentially dangerous".

He added that the replacement of equipment was being sacrificed to pay the salaries of the influx of new recruits.

Some delegates confirmed privately that the Nottinghamshire force is not the only one where restrictions have been placed on using equipment where there have been delays in buying new equipment.

It was pointed out that although the Government has pledged itself to support the end order, most fresh spending is being channelled into the prison service and the courts.

The conference paid tribute to Police Constable Trevor Lock, who was held in the Iranian Embassy siege, and to Police Constable Stephen Hicklin, who was seriously injured by a bomb at Cadogan police station.

The attack on PC Hicklin was described as a "cruelly cowardly, attack" by Middup.

Mr Hicklin was welcomed as "this sensible decision".

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, who had described the promotions as "blatantly out of accord with the whole spirit of the agreement", said yesterday that he was welcomed as "this sensible decision".

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A band
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Les to be made to control display of furniture ed with polyurethane foam after store death

Regulations to control display of polyurethane furniture in shops and department stores are to be a result of the fire at Woolworths in Manchester last year, which killed 100.

Announcement by Mr Whitelaw, Home Secretary, in the Commons, immediately criticized as "inadequate" by Mr Morris, Labour MP for Wyrthenshaw. He inquiry had bluntly told the foam as a high risk and accused the of "pussyfooting with inadequate regulations".

That burning polyurethane foam gave off cyanide killed most victims of the flames reached family whose furniture with such foam could it into fire-separated compartments or areas with sprinklers.

The report which confirms much of the evidence given at says that if appropriate sprinklers had been installed in the Woolworth building, the people on the second floor, where all the deaths by fumes took place would have had more time to escape "and fewer casualties may have occurred".

In other recommendations, it suggests that the Fire Precautions Act could require the installation of sprinklers and says that every store should have a fire routine and drill tailored to its circumstances.

The report says there was a serious delay in sounding the fire alarm.

In detailed evidence, it says a telephone told of a fire on second floor misheard and thought a "fight" was taking place. Almost 100 people in the second-floor restaurant probably were not immediately aware of the fire, which had started in an area of stacked furniture.

When they were told, some of them, particularly the elderly, were slow to react. The report says: "Moreover, it is apparent from the evidence that they were reluctant to relinquish their meals and to make their escape".



Woolworth's, in Manchester, on fire last year.

of the inquiry, undertaken by a subcommittee of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council for England, Wales and Scotland. Its report was published yesterday.

Mr Whitelaw told MPs that because of the depth of the coroner's inquest and the scope

of the subcommittee's comprehensive report, no useful purpose would be served by any further formal inquiry.

The report recommends that polyurethane foam furniture should be stored in areas to which the public has no access and should be displayed and stored either in fire-separated compartments or areas with sprinklers.

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Whitelaw tries to cate prison officers

ter Evans
Hans Correspondent

William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, yesterday paid a visit to the Prison Officers' Association annual conference at Hastings to head off trouble in the prison service.

He is frustrated that pay claims for meals have not been met. Their bout them led to the up of the May inquiry and brought the system of breakdown. still industrial action issue in prisons, inmates are not always

ter Rushworth, deputy secretary of the on said later that on claims for lunch allowances the association was willing to go to the June in the hope that a settlement could be

Failing that there is no national industrial committee told me that the May Committee had accepted the principle payments for meals working hours due to

ences used for sleeping overcrowded jails

olas Timmins
cluding Send in Surrey, one of the experimental "short, sharp, shock" centres, Oxford prison, two female remand centres, and a borstal are listed as those affected.

Accommodation used includes association rooms, class-rooms, store rooms, visiting rooms, a library, offices, a dormitory floor, hospital annexes and in one case a corridor.

Mr Kilroy-Silk said the Prison Act and prison rules say that rooms must be certified as suitable for the numbers who may be confined there at any one time. "Clearly this is against the law."

He is tabling a further

question to ask Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, to take urgent action to reduce prison overcrowding and to introduce 50 per cent remission on sentences.

y council to
d £2.5m
new offices

Oxfordshire District Council voted yesterday to about £2.5m on new offices, a proposal had split the controlling group and led to resignation of its leader. In favour of the new at Crowthorne Gifford for a bitter debate, but Conservatives carried the by 36 votes to 19. least two Conservatives and Liberal to vote against the proposal split the usually conservative ranks. One broke away, claiming the council could not such expenditure

marriage ties attacked

was strong criticism of unjust requirements of man Catholic Church in marriages, at the Church and Synod in Dublin yes.

Primate of All Ireland, Rev. John Armstrong, the Church of Ireland, believed in general that in a mixed marriage be "equal before God", should carry into their "no incubus on either of their own faith".

Banned Natsopa official loses High Court plea

A print worker banned from holding union office after accusing Mr Owen O'Brien, general secretary of Natsopa, of lying, failed in a High Court plea yesterday to force the union to speed the hearing of his appeal.

Mr Herbert Hand, Natsopa chairman at two Fleet Street offices, was disqualified last February, after claiming that Mr O'Brien had understated the extent of his mortgage loan from the union. Mr O'Brien complained to the executive and Mr Hand was disciplined.

Mr Hand's appeal against the ban would not normally be heard until November.

marriage ties attacked

In his first presidential address, following his election to Armagh earlier this year, Archbishop Armstrong said that both churches wanted to be assured that "the marriage will have a Christian base and any offspring will have the chance of Christian nurture".

He told the synod that the Catholic hierarchy hoped to produce a new directory on mixed marriages early next year.

Mr Haughey speaks of Ulster's despair

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic who has his first important meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher in Downing Street today, said yesterday that Northern Ireland was in a state of despair. The economy was failing apart, the fabric of society

One door at street level was fastened with a padlock and chain on the inside. Some employees had to be rescued from behind barred windows and the report recommends that bars should not be fitted unless essential for security purposes.

The report says that the telephone, who was not the full-time telephone, did not hear the fire alarm, so rang the going-home bell over the public address system. Then she tried twice, unsuccessfully, to call the fire brigade, before leaving. There was no trace of a call to the fire brigade from the store.

The report says the cause of the fire cannot be established with certainty, although it was probably an electrical fault, or direct ignition. The electrical arrangement in the furniture department where the fire started was in contravention of the Institution of Electrical Engineers' Regulations.

Until the time of the fire, the local fire authority had granted Woolworth's five extensions for the completion of works totalling more than 800 days.

Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils for England and Wales and Scotland, Joint Fire Prevention Committee, Report of the Planning Legislation subcommittee on the fire at Woolworth, Piccadilly, Manchester.

Leading article, page 17

All the 10 victims, nine members of the public and one store employee, died through inhaling fumes. The report says the means of escape and other fire precautions provided in the building "manifestly failed to secure the safety of everyone present at the time of the fire".

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When they were told, some of them, particularly the elderly, were slow to react. The report says: "Moreover, it is apparent from the evidence that they were reluctant to relinquish their meals and to make their escape".

Official sources in Dublin have denied that a package of long-term proposals, as reported in The Sunday Times, has already been prepared.

Explosives hunt: The Army was still searching for explosives yesterday in the areas of south Armagh where the body of a man kidnapped and murdered by the IRA lay for four days last week.

She appealed to doctors and dentists throughout the coun-

Nurses seek Thatcher action on pay claim

From Annabel Ferriman
Harrogate

The Royal College of Nursing's representative body yesterday sent a telegram to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, demanding more money to settle the nurses' pay claim. An award to doctors and dentists of 31.4 per cent was announced on Monday.

The nurses, who have been offered 14 per cent, reminded the Prime Minister of her statement in opposition that the government had a moral obligation to respond positively to their commitment-not to take industrial action.

The representative body now looks to you to demonstrate your sincerity by ensuring that in the current financial year nurses are treated no less favourably than doctors". It added: "For nurses, no less than for doctors, money speaks louder than words".

More than 800 delegates at the college's conference in Harrogate unanimously passed a motion saying that the representative body was "as rounded" at the pay award for doctors and dentists, which was in excess of the Government's 14 per cent limit, and demanding more money.

Mrs Valerie Durston, a delegate from Cambridgeshire, London, proposing the motion, said that nurses were "heartily sick of going cap in hand, year after year, to whichever government is in power. For how long are we to be penalized for not taking strike action?"

"That is a time in their lives when the teeth are particularly vulnerable," he said.

They accused council officials of not being willing to listen to them, or to representatives of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, which has called more than 300 day staff out in support of the regrading claim.

Mr Riddle said he hoped to have interim proposals to end the dispute ready within 48 hours.

Two mothers in chains support day care strike

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Two mothers chained themselves to stairs inside the old town hall at Camden, London, yesterday to demonstrate in support of striking day care workers whose action has led to the closure of their children's day nurseries.

Mrs Cheryl Boucher, aged 30, and Mrs Vera Keane, aged 25, brought their children with them and were joined by other mothers and children during the day.

The demonstration attracted media attention until Mr David Riddle, deputy chief executive of Camden, ordered that television and press representatives be removed. Among those excluded was a photographer from The Times, but security men did not prevent me from entering the building.

Mrs Boucher and Mrs Keane said they supported the day care workers in their claim for regrading because they wanted the centres regraded. Mrs Boucher normally attends an adult day centre, while her son, Lestyn, aged three, goes to a day nursery.

They accused council officials of not being willing to listen to them, or to representatives of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, which has called more than 300 day staff out in support of the regrading claim.

Mr Riddle said he hoped to have interim proposals to end the dispute ready within 48 hours.

By this time tomorrow Britain will need another 60 million gallons of oil.

That's why the search for more North Sea oil is so vital — to replace the 60 million gallons Britain uses every day.

Just five years ago, all of that oil would have been imported. Now Britain produces almost as much oil and gas as it needs.

This self-sufficiency means secure supplies in today's uncertain world. Home-produced oil also protects the balance of payments — and will bring dramatically rising tax revenues. Suddenly, all those prospects of 'getting Britain on its feet' and 'revitalising industry' look like genuine possibilities. As long as North Sea oil lasts.

Today, Britain is reaping the benefits of exploration which began back in the 1960s. Without more new discoveries and development, self-sufficiency will be over in little more than a decade as today's fields run

down. And without a steady flow of new exploration and development projects, experienced teams inevitably disperse: expertise — and rigs — are in demand all over the world.

So what about tomorrow's fields? This month the Government announced plans to release exploration rights for 90 more areas off Britain's coasts. It's a welcome step. If Britain is to have a second-generation North Sea for the 1990s, today's momentum must be maintained through the 1980s — with regular release of exploration rights and with full opportunities to bring discoveries into production.

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HOME NEWS

DPP closes file on allegations of corruption in Blackpool after four years of police investigations

By John Chartres

Manchester

Nearly four years of investigations into alleged corrupt activities in and around Blackpool ended yesterday with an announcement from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions that no further criminal proceedings were contemplated in that field.

Official inquiries into the way that Blackpool and its immediate surrounding districts were being administered began in July, 1976, when a Blackpool police officer, Sergeant Harry Roby, made a formal complaint against Mr Stanley Parr, then Chief Constable of Lancashire, during a routine inspection of the force.

That led to the Lancashire police committee, of which Mr Frank Loftthouse was then chairman, asking Sir Douglas Osmond, Chief Constable of Lancashire, to conduct an inquiry into "certain matters within the personal jurisdiction of the chief constable".

Later, a tribunal headed by Mr Patrick Bennett, QC, found 24 out of 37 disciplinary charges proved against Mr Parr which alleged discreditable conduct, and two which alleged falsehood. Mr Parr was dismissed from his post by the police committee in December, 1977.

Clash over minister's refusal to give facts

By Peter Hennessy

The Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts is attempting to take the refusal of Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to provide it with information on inter-departmental Whitehall consultations on the level of overseas students' fees to the floor of the House of Commons.

In what could become the first substantial test of will between the 12 new departmental select committees, established late autumn, and the Government, the education committee is basing its case on the 1978 report of the Select Committee on Procedure which set the reformed Commons committee structure. The Procedure Committee recommended that:

Select committees should regard any refusal by government departments to provide information relating to departmental or inter-departmental organization unless fully explained and justified to their satisfaction—as a matter of serious concern which should be brought to the attention of the House.

Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, chairman of the education committee, said yesterday: "Overseas students are dealt with by a number of different government departments. Parliament cannot scrutinize decisions taken by them unless they have some information about inter-departmental consultations."

"We received none but were told by Mark Carlisle that this is a matter for the House to decide... we very much hope that the House will now tell the Government to change its mind over the issue."

In a special report published yesterday on "the provision of information by government departments to select committees", the committee said it was not alone among select committees in experiencing difficulties with departments.

Pay deal may lead county to cut 139 teaching jobs

By Our Education Correspondent

Hertfordshire is proposing to cut an extra 139 teachers' jobs to make the savings required to meet the recent comparability pay awards for teachers and local government staff.

The county council agreed yesterday to cut a further £2.8m from this year's budget, the sum equal to the council's 20 per cent underestimation of the size of the Clegg comparability awards. Of that amount, £2.1m will fall on the education budget.

Education in Hertfordshire has already had to face cuts this year of £7.26m in a budget of £15.9m. The education committee's finance and administration subcommittee is now recommending that there should be a reduction in the teaching force of 139 in addition to the 130 already proposed.

The total loss of 269 teaching jobs will not only abolish the margin allowed to cope with the difficulties of falling pupil rolls, but will also mean a slight deterioration in the teacher-pupil ratio. The Hertfordshire association of the National Union of Teachers is

pushing by police. Two police officers went down the road and he noticed a number of policemen on foot as well as a man who was in pain, into a house. "I tried to ask him some questions, but he could not say a word, so I rang for the ambulance."

"They started hitting just anyone who came to be there", he said. He also saw a group of four or five people standing on a corner. One of them was hit on the head and was almost on his knees. "I went into my friend's house—my wife and child were already there—and later I saw some people trying to offer a cup of water to a man", Mr Chona said. "Then there was hustling and

pushing" by police. Two police officers went down the road and he noticed a number of policemen on foot as well as a man who was in pain, into a house. "I tried to ask him some questions, but he could not say a word, so I rang for the ambulance."

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pushing" by police. Two police officers went down the road and he noticed a number of policemen on foot as well as a man who was in pain, into a house. "I tried to ask him some questions, but he could not say a word, so I rang for the ambulance."

Mr Peach, aged 33, a teacher from New Zealand, died from

head injuries after the riot.

Sonsor Singh Khumra said through an interpreter that he had seen two policemen hit a white man standing at a corner. He was then hit unconscious by two other officers.

He told Mr Brian Watling, QC, for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, that he saw only "pushing and shoving" and did not see anything thrown. "All I saw was policemen beating people."

The inquest was adjourned until today.

Long reports were submitted to the DPP's office by Mr Imbert and his team, most of them referring to alleged corruption in planning and commercial franchise applications related to commercial activities in Blackpool, including its famous "golden mile" stretch of promenade.

Continued pressure for inquiries into the alleged corrupt activities was maintained by two Labour MPs, Mr George Rodgers (Chorley) and Mr Ronald Atkins (Preston North) and the matter was consistently publicized by the Lancashire Evening Post, three of whose senior staff earned Journalist of the Year awards for their campaigning work on the issue.

At one stage, the Lancashire police committee unsuccessfully sought the Attorney General's permission to prosecute them under the Official Secrets Act. Councillor Tom Fercival, leader of the Conservative-controlled Blackpool Borough Council, said yesterday: "This means that finally a cloud of suspicion and rumoured allegation, which has sourced public life in Blackpool for the past 31 years, has been lifted. My only regret is that the ratepayers and taxpayers will have to meet the huge expense of the lengthy inquiries."

MPs criticize policy on foreign students

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Criticism of the failure of successive governments to formulate a coherent policy on overseas students affairs, and of the lack of accurate information on which to base such a policy, is contained in two Commons select committee reports published yesterday.

Both the Committee on Education, Science and the Arts and the overseas development subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee call on the Government urgently to collect up-to-date statistics on the distribution of such students in Britain, their countries of origin, financial means, and the lengths, levels and subjects of their courses.

Neither committee comments directly on the Government's decision to charge "full-cost" fees to overseas students, but both strongly criticize the way in which that decision was reached and the lack of consultation that preceded it.

"We have received no evidence that the overseas implications of the decision were given even cursory examination before the decision was taken", the foreign affairs subcommittee says.

The subcommittee is thoroughly sceptical about the Government's calculations of the £106m "subsidy" for overseas students, which it believes is a serious overstatement of the actual economic cost. It questions why such a figure was given to the Commons.

"Does this arise from bad advice? Or does it arise from a deliberate attempt to present the issue in a manner calculated to win political support for an ill-considered and hasty judgement?", it asks.

Recent research shows that the number of students from middle-income countries was rising rapidly, while that from poorer countries has been declining for several years. It

would be astonishing if that trend was not accelerated by the Government's policy, it says.

It finds it "paradoxical" that the Government will "continue to subsidize EEC students, among the richest in the world, yet refuses to modify its feed policy in favour of the poorest and least privileged".

The subcommittee recommends a substantial increase in the overseas aid budget to provide bursaries for students from poor countries, the Commonwealth or dependent territories with few higher education institutions.

It urges that "full-cost" fees should not be charged to overseas students on technician and draft courses; or to students already in Britain who are preparing for entry to higher education. It does not estimate the cost of its proposals.

The education committee urges a bursary scheme for non-sponsored overseas students, particularly from the Third World, financed from private sources and the Government.

The scheme would be administered by an independent body representing academic, industrial, overseas development, research and government interests.

Bursaries should be awarded to encourage outstanding students to study in Britain; to maintain vital in British industry and commerce; to relieve acute financial distress, particularly among refugee students; and to support Commonwealth interests.

Mr David Aarons, president-elect of the National Union of Students, described both reports as "damning indictments of the planning and decision-making methods employed by all Government departments involved with overseas students", but complained that they failed to offer any proper guidance on future policy.

First report from the Education, Science and Arts Committee, House of Commons 552 (Stationery Office, £2). Third report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons 553 (Stationery Office, not yet publicly available).

Training to detect child abuse urged in schools

A working party report says that many teachers are not sufficiently trained in recognizing cases of child abuse. It recommends that teachers and other staff working in schools, such as secretaries and cooks, should be trained in this field.

The report was compiled by a five-member panel set up by the National Association of Chief Education Social Workers, and was presented at their annual conference at Llandudno.

Mr Alan Chandler, divisional education welfare officer of the Inner London Education Authority, and convenor of the panel, told the conference that the first clue to child abuse could be as simple as a young person asking a school secretary for a bursary.

He said the report, compiled from answers to questionnaires sent to 122 education authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland suggested that between 20 and 25 per cent of the country appeared to have no formal staff training in recognition of non-accidental injury to children.

The report recommends that the Government examines the adequacy of this kind of teacher training.

Police were hitting anyone, Blair Peach witness alleges

Police at last year's Southall riot started hitting "just about anybody who came to be there", it was claimed at the Blair Peach inquest yesterday.

Mr Jiginda Chona told the inquest at Hammersmith, London, that children were being hit at the same time.

Mr Chona, of Hammersmith Road, Southall, had told the jury there was a lot of shouting at the anti-National Front demonstration which preceded the riot in April last year; but it was quite peaceful.

Then there was "hustling and

pushing" by police. Two police officers went down the road and he noticed a number of policemen on foot as well as a man who was in pain, into a house. "I tried to ask him some questions, but he could not say a word, so I rang for the ambulance."

He told Mr Brian Watling, QC, for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, that he saw only "pushing and shoving" and did not see anything thrown. "All I saw was policemen beating people."

The inquest was adjourned until today.

Seven remanded after big cannabis haul

Seven men appeared before Guildhall Magistrates' Court, City of London, yesterday after a large amount of the drug cannabis was seized at the weekend. They were:

Alan Arthur Grey, unemployed, of Tonbridge, Kent; Michael, yacht broker, of Gravesend, Kent; Michael Belcham, of Chelmsford, Essex; Christopher of David Farm, Washfield, Wiltshire; Robert Henry Kennerley, of Northamptonshire; Martin Kellie, of Luton; and Brian Howard, of no fixed address.

Each was charged with smuggling cannabis, dealing in the drug and conspiring to smuggle cannabis. They were all remanded in custody until next Wednesday.

IBA is urged to change TV franchise holders

By Kenneth Gosling

Broadcasting in Britain would be set back "a long, long way" if the Independent Broadcasters' Authority failed to make changes in the commercial television franchise holders, Lord Willis, deputy chairman of Midlands Television Ltd, said in Birmingham yesterday.

At a press conference outlining the company's plans if it succeeds in unseating ATV from the Midlands contractor from 1982, Lord Willis accused ATV of "losing its sense of direction". He said the company had treated the Midlands as a colonial outpost which it had exploited and exported the profits of.

The big companies were relying on the fact that it required a great deal of money "like entering a presidential election" to take over a franchise, but from nothing, Midlands Television had attracted finance of more than £50m, mostly from Midlands sources.

"We have shaken them", he said, "because we have indicated that they can be challenged". An exciting feature of the submission to the IBA, he said, was the creation of an independent producers company, which he called "a real coup". It would put independent production in the forefront instead of relegating it to the ghetto of the fourth channel.

Equity call: Equity, the actors' union, called on the IBA to make companies seeking franchises give part of their profits to the impoverished live arts" in Britain and to ensure that programme companies do not take profits out of the industry and invest them elsewhere.

One applicant has agreed, if successful, to pay annually £100,000 and 15 per cent of dividends into a trust to support regional arts projects.

Cuts by English National Opera despite £4m grant

By Martin Huckerby

The English National Opera is likely to receive a grant of almost £1m from the Arts Council for the new financial year, but the company said that represented an increase of less than 10 per cent for its work at the London Coliseum and two city concert halls.

Failure of the submission would mean the loss of £100,000. Mr Stuart Wilson, managing director and chief executive, said: "The loss would be borne by the International Publishing Corporation, Radio Luxembourg and two city investment trusts.

Among the appointments to the Midlands Television main board are Lady Airey of Abingdon, Mrs. and Mr. Joseph Germain, president of the National Union of Mineworkers. Separate boards have been created with responsibility for the West and East Midlands.

Opera-goers will also be affected by the shortage of funds. As already announced, seat prices are being raised by

30 per cent from the July.

Lord Harewood, managing director of the English National Opera, told the committee recently that because of the grant, various cuts would have to go.

The Arts Council grant is expected to be £1.2m. That is a 9.2 per cent cut in the funds allocated to the company's £1.2m operation.

An £800,000 grant has been offered by the Greater London Council, which is 14.3 per cent more than in 1979-80; but overall effect is that the company is receiving only 1.1 per cent more public support last year, and inflation.

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The committee said that the

evidence submitted to it sug-

Threat to British Library

By a Staff Reporter

Services provided by the British Library will deteriorate substantially and rapidly unless a decision is taken quickly to proceed with the first phase of the new building for the library, the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts said in a report published yesterday.

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second report from the

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Environmental Office

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iscard-Brezhnev meeting finds le favour with the French doubt whether it was opportune

Murray
y 20
ost interesting thing, to emerge from the meeting between Giscard d'Estaing and Brezhnev in the palace near Warsaw, was two world leaders for the first time they're the weather.

nt Giscard d'Estaing, all rolling: "Is spring this year in Moscow asked solicitorily.

he Soviet president: "It is late in Moscow

French President concerned: "Will any consequences of I wonder. But the weather, clearly not to be so loaded a question, but it was too early

ndrei Gromyko, the foreign Minister, was anxious. However: "Europe has been sprung a visit, he

Giscard d'Estaing he comes more from the Europe," he said. "Not

Gromyko, the eternal realized this frivolity for enough. "All these are evidently nor he informed the before ushering them room so that the real could begin.

ards President Giscard was able to say discussions had been

"useful" while declining to add that he was "satisfied". His lack of satisfaction has been shared by every shade of political opinion in France apart from the Communists and the most loyal Giscardians.

Both the Communists and the Giscardians, in fact, chose the same word to describe the talks—"indispensable". For the Socialists, however, the meeting produced "such a paltry result" in contrast to its "spectacular" build up. For the Gaullists, the meeting did nothing except free the Soviet Union from the "quarantine" into which it had been rightly placed for its aggression in Afghanistan.

The press generally has been even more scathing with the total acceptance of the Commissaire L'Herminier and some of the regional newspapers. The strongest attack is probably the critically independent *Le Quotidien de Paris*, which says France has let the Soviet Union off the hook and made it possible for Moscow to argue that the West is divided.

Is the President really innocent, the newspaper asks, and if so, is that innocence born of naïveté or too much self-confidence? "In any event it was a blunder, a political error and a mistake."

Le Quotidien concludes that the only purpose served by the visit was that of winning French Communist votes in next year's presidential election. This view seems to be shared in part by the Socialist

Le Matin which says: "The head of state, guided by electoral interests, scarcely seems worried by the dangerous slope on which he has thrown himself."

Even the staunchly pro-government *Le Figaro* says: "He can only gain one thing: that is to appear, in the place of Chancellor Schmidt, as the leader of Europe. But of what Europe? Will that be a free Europe, or a submissive Europe?"

Mr Stepan Tsvetovensko, the Soviet Ambassador, met the Diplomatic Press Association over breakfast today on the strict condition that British and American journalists were not present.

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"Nobdy can doubt that the meeting's aim was to find ways to lessen the dangers of military confrontation, to reduce armaments and to reinforce the process of détente," he is reported as saying by *Agence France-Presse*.

Those words are similar to those spoken by President Giscard d'Estaing himself immediately after the meeting.

M Giscard d'Estaing, however, said that if communication did not resolve problems, the lack of communication increased misunderstandings and this was why he had decided to explain the Western re-action to the Russians. The French official view is that the isolation of the Soviet Union can only provoke a dangerous reaction from the Soviet leaders.

which has been missing for so long. The international situation is a danger for Germany in the 1980s".

The Chancellor and his Social Democratic Party, he claimed, were subject to blackmail from their left-wingers who were "spreading like weeds". The Social Democrats had fanned the flames of the recent extremist riot in Bremen and Berlin and were guilty of a campaign of slander against himself.

The government's defence policy was a "total failure" and the Chancellor's view of

ing. At the end many—though not all—of the sceptical Christian Democrats gave him a rousing ovation with shouts of "Franz Josef, Franz Josef".

It seemed as if last week's debate in the North Rhine-Westphalian Land elections had finally brought out the fighting spirit which seemed to fail him in the 10 months since he became the Opposition's candidate for Chancellor.

By the end he appeared to have won over, or at least encouraged, the Christian Demo

crats.

If the theory proves correct, he will be the first non-Italian to be seized since the Schild family were taken last August.

Rome, May 20. The Italian police believe that the Swedish building contractor, Mr Fritz Aberg, who has been missing from his Sicilian home since May 9, is the victim of kidnapers. His abandoned car was found last night.

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The police

OVERSEAS

Israeli judges order the Government to justify expelling Arabs

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, May 20

Lawyers acting for Arabs from the occupied West Bank have begun an intensive legal campaign to force the Israeli Government to justify its harsher punishments meted out in its efforts to suppress Palestinian unrest.

They succeeded today in persuading three judges in the High Court to issue an *interim injunction*. The order gives the Government 45 days to state why three prominent Arabs, deported to Lebanon earlier this month, should not be allowed to return to their homes on the ground they were refused the opportunity to appeal.

The three men are Mr Muhammad Milhem, Mayor of Halhoul, Mr Fahd Kavousi, Mayor of Hebron, and Sheikh Raji Tamini, an Israeli Judge. All three were flown by helicopter to Lebanon not long after a Palestinian ambush in Hebron which killed six Jewish settlers.

The punishment was imposed last week because the youngest member of the Shuhali family, who are Christians, was suspected of throwing a stone.

In a strongly-worded petition to the High Court, Mrs Felicia Langer, the family's Jewish lawyer, argued that the banishment contravened both international law and the British-drafted Defence (Emergency) Regulations of 1945, under which it was carried out.

In presenting her petition to a single judge, Mrs Langer claimed that conditions in the deserted camp in which they were held for 10 days, let alone hours, could not be justified, and argued against the legality of such a collective punishment. The case has been referred to a hearing by three judges, which is expected to take place in Jerusalem next week.

Today's interim injunction against the Government was seen in political circles as a setback for the military authorities, which have ordered a new policy of harsh measures

Prices fluctuate at US sale of Renaissance art

From Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

New York, May 20

The collection of medieval and Renaissance works of art amassed by the late George R. Hahn in the pre-war era, when such items were high fashion in America, was auctioned by Christie's today at the Hahn country residence outside Pittsburgh for a total of \$1,060,720 (\$465,228).

Only one lot was unsold. The prices were erratic, largely reflecting which European dealers had made the pilgrimage to Pittsburgh. Mr Jack Bernadour, a London dealer, paid \$140,000 (estimate \$50,000 to \$30,000) for a Nillefleur tapestry of about 1400 with exotic animals against a dense floral background.

In contrast, French dealers failed to turn up and the French limestone carvings, mainly of the fifteenth century, brought rather low prices. The late fifteenth century retable with Gothic tracery and pilasters depicting attendant saints from a central Crucifixion scene made \$58,000 (estimate \$50,000 to \$70,000).

A German dealer secured a Eungundian coloured limestone figure of St Barbara at \$40,000 (estimated \$40,000-\$60,000). A Eungundian figure of an abbess, without colour, sold for \$3,500 (estimate \$15,000-\$20,000).

The limestone of a quality which the French museums will no longer permit to be exported from France. The sale offered a rare opportunity, but it did not stop competitive bidding.

A sale of twentieth century photographs at Sotheby Parke-Bernet in New York yesterday made \$300,000, with 46 out of the 270 lots unsold.

The top price for a single image was \$13,500 (estimate \$7,000-\$10,000) for a portrait, Eleonora Duse by Edward Steichen, one of his rare and sought-after pigment prints and an elaborate photographic process.

The reverse of the print records in Steichen's own hand that its price in 1904 was \$50,000.

their sons, hospitality learnt at university in California wears off quickly.

This value set upon privacy has instilled the Saudi from much of the conflict between East and West that one might expect. At the same time, an insistence on public piety provides a discipline of tradition that gives him a moral defence in the armour of faith. The situation makes for intolerance and arrogance, but it also provides security. Saudis are naturally discriminating about what they take from us; stealing is illegal but freely available, but even a heavy drizzle will show no sympathy with someone arrested for public drunkenness.

That said, it should be pointed out that Saudi society has not yet been pur to the test. Many have brought self-discipline, but with little increase in budgeted spending for the next five years, although high in anyone's else's terms, there must be some questions about whether the strains will start to tell.

There is already a perceptible asocialism for earlier socialities: press commentaries recall the days when no one needed papers to prove honorable descent; it is conventional wisdom that foreigners challenge the Saudi way of life.

throughout the occupied West Bank.

The presiding judge, Justice Haim Cohen, expressed "astonishment" that the legal principle of advising the three deportees of their right to appeal had been ignored.

Justice Cohen noted that this principle had first been laid down by the Israeli Supreme Court 32 years ago, when it ruled that deportation could not be implemented if the Appeals Committee was not functioning.

We agreed that the massacre in Beirut had been "ugly, brutal and traumatic", but he argued that this did not justify denying the men their legal right of appeal.

During the hearing, Mr Gabriel Bach, the State Attorney, argued that the expulsion of the Arabs without the opportunity of appeal could be explained by immediate security needs. However, he conceded that the law had to be respected, and in consequence the lessons of the expulsion and the shortcomings disclosed by it would be examined.

Mr Bach argued that the public declarations of the mayors had served to undermine security in the West Bank and that they supported the illegal aims of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Lawyers for the mayors submitted affidavits, including one from Mr Haim Bar-Lev, secretary of the opposition Labour Party, and another from a resident of the Israeli Arava, saying that they did not believe the mayors were Palestinian extremists.

The final outcome of the proceedings will not be known until the 45-day period is up, but diplomatic observers are already comparing its significance to the case last year in which Arab landowners appealed successfully to the Supreme Court against the establishment of a Jewish settlement at the biblical site of Ein Moreh.

Egypt sets terms for resumption of autonomy talks

From Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

New York, May 20

Egypt is prepared to resume the Palestinian autonomy negotiations with Israel provided all issues and differences—meaning Jerusalem—are placed on the negotiating table, Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Foreign Minister, said today. He emphasized that Egypt would not accept any preconditions.

A new date for the negotiations will be set Mr Ali said, following a meeting in Washington tomorrow between Mr Mustafa Khalil, Egypt's outgoing Prime Minister, and Mr Soi Linowitz, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East.

Mr Ali made the announcement to reporters after conferring with the Israel Ambassador, Mr Elijah Ben-Elissar, who gave him a letter from Mr Meir Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, to President Sadat.

"The reasons which made Egypt break off the negotiations are good reasons and remain good reasons, but this does not prevent (further) negotiations," Mr Ali said.

"Our position is to reject any preconditions," he said. "But it is understood that all differences, whatever they are, will be placed on the negotiating table." UPI

Guard on Mr Binaisa stays

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, May 20

Mr Godfrey Binaisa, who was unseated as President of Uganda last week, is likely to remain under Tanzanian guard in Uganda until a new government there is formed after parliamentary elections in several months' time, political sources report.

But President Nyerere of Tanzania has rejected proposals from the new government in Uganda that Mr Binaisa be arraigned on criminal charges of corruption.

At a meeting between President Nyerere and the new Ugandan leaders, which took place in Arusha, Tanzania, last weekend, Mr Paulo Muwanga,

Thatcher volte-face has MPs at loss for words

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

For a few brief minutes yesterday the House of Commons gloried in its new found muscle used so successfully on Monday to force the Government to reverse within hours its decision to introduce retrospective economic sanctions orders against Iran.

Indeed what was regarded yesterday as the quietest about-turn in recent political history seemed to have taken the House so much by surprise that MPs were almost at a loss for words, and the three-hour emergency debate on the sanctions issue was concluded in about half an hour.

But not before Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian, and the hero of the hour, whose request for the debate led to the reversal of the policy, was placed upon a pedestal to be suavely venerated by friend and foe alike.

He even promised Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, that, although there would now be no retroaction, he would think again about the procedure for introducing order under the Import-Export and Customs (Defence) Act 1939 to allow a debate in the House before any such order came into operation.

The revolt by MPs came

when it was learnt that retrospective sanctions were to be introduced by order under powers given in the 1939 Act and that the order would be debated in Parliament only

after the sanctions had begun to bite.

Sir Ian Gilmore, the Lord Privy Seal, who only 24 hours before was telling everyone how important it was to act in concert with our partners in Europe, and how great plans were afoot to coordinate the retrospective sanctions, was now assuring the House that all such thoughts by the Government had been abandoned.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, giving the reversal message to the House of Lords, said that a meeting was being urgently called in Brussels of the permanent representatives, nor a Council meeting, to coordinate sanctions that would be right, to show solidarity with the United States, Britain's friend and ally; and with the limited objective of securing the release of the hostages. The Government would continue to work for the release of the hostages through quiet diplomacy and persistent persuasion.

I was important, Lord Carrington said, that our allies should realize the situation in which the Government found itself. He was sure that Mr

Edmund Muskie, the United States Secretary of State, would understand the situation of a Government which relied on Parliament for its support.

He added that the Government knew of only one large contract signed between November 4 and today, although there might be a number of smaller ones.

In the Commons, Sir Ian pointed out that although the Government realized that sanctions were of limited value if continued in belief that the policy of applying them was right, to show solidarity with the United States, Britain's friend and ally; and with the limited objective of securing the release of the hostages. The Government would continue to work for the release of the hostages through quiet diplomacy and persistent persuasion.

Parliament rises for the Whitsun recess on Friday, but orders can be laid when the House is not sitting. They have unanimous support for Carter in his efforts to free the American hostages.

other countries that they were free agents who could yield to the pressure of other nations and just assume the consent of the House of Commons. That was important in Britain's relations with the United States and the EEC.

Doubt over date: The Iran sanctions about-turn yesterday led to some doubt whether a first enforcement order could be laid by the agreed day tomorrow. (Our Political Editor writes).

As matters stand, European sanctions would affect contracts struck with Iran back to last November, but British sanctions would only affect contracts entered into after whatever date an Order was laid before Parliament.

The result will be to the sanctions decision, last weekend by EEC ministers in Naples, even more convincing than it was as a gesture of political, psychological support for Carter in his efforts to free the American hostages.

EEC likely to follow Britain on sanctions

From Michael Hornby
Brussels, May 20

The surprise decision by Margaret Thatcher, threat of a Conservative not to implement sanctions against Iran yesterday almost certainly means most other member states now quietly decide to i

The result will be to the sanctions decision, last weekend by EEC ministers in Naples, even more convincing than it was as a gesture of political, psychological support for Carter in his efforts to free the American hostages.

Trade and legal experts Community will meet in Brussels later this week to take stock of the new situation created by Britain's decision. But there seems little that other member states now feel absolved from original joint agreement to impose sanctions to be run out.

The irony of it is the economic impact of sanctions would be much the same whether retrospective or Dutch officials estimate even-backed sanctions not block more than 8 per cent of the volume of trade with the EEC and Iran, which is estimated to be around £220m a month.

While it is surely a

for a peer of the realm reminded from time to time of the supremacy of parliament there is no doubt that Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has been made in uncommonly foolish. His may henceforth carry weight in the EEC's council.

It is no less embarrassing Mrs Thatcher, who has less easily trumped the new solidarity with the United States on Iran and other national issues, to be as the only EEC leader to deliver the goods we came to the point.

As one German official put it, not without some

Frankly this is typical British behaviour all at lot of big talk which ends up in hot air when action is called for. Other countries here have been equally flattering.

Before the Naples Foreign Office official pointedly told journalists Britain had all the legal necessary to impose a trade embargo on Iran, so the only reason for the decision not taking such a bold stand by the EEC partners to go as it is.

In fairness, however, it is said that no one can of the affair with much. The truth is that the scheme grudgingly and heartedly entered into EEC under American pressure was ill-considered an prepared from the outset.

The general view in the was that sanctions would work economically, and they did would hurt the economy more than Iran was sanctions seen as likely to be effective in freeing American hostages. But British and German press France and other member were won round.

The clinching argument apparently was that a European majority would be forced to military force to the hostages. Within the original EEC de President Carter made aborted rescue mission.

The announcement of Mr Qorbadeh's letter came after reports from New York that Dr Waldheim was sending Mr Habib Daoudy, a Syrian lawyer, to Tehran with instructions to the Islamic Conference committee since January.

Appearing with nine other Islamic fundamentalist emigre leaders he bitterly criticized the conference for not having admitted them as the representatives of Afghanistan, only as representatives of the Mujahidin.

Addressing the foreign ministers, Professor Sotyai demanded that the Islamic Conference should not break all diplomatic and economic ties with the Soviet Union "until the last Soviet soldier has left Afghanistan", break off diplomatic relations with the Kabul regime—most of the member governments have frozen diplomatic relations following the January call to sever relations and set up offices of the Afghan National Liberation Front in all the Muslim countries.

The significance of these

Saudi Arabia contributes \$25m to Afghan insurgents

From Richard Wrigg
Islamabad, May 20

A cheque for \$25m (£10.8m) from the Saudi Arabian government to help Afghans opposing the Communist movement in Kabul has been received by the 4th National Islamic Conference, a meeting of the conference's foreign ministers was held here today.

The Ministers also heard from the spokesman of an alliance representing Afghan

government contributions that they represent the first response by any Muslim government to the appeal made by the Islamic Conference for funds to help the Afghan cause. The committee of three countries—Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the Gambia—only had to pronounce till now on contributions from individuals or countries.

Todays' announcement by Mr Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference, represents a belated gesture to implement one of the few practical resolutions on solidarity with Afghanistan passed in January.

Professor Abdul Rasul Sotyai, who addressed the political committee today on behalf of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan and other Mujahidin groups, immediately called a press conference afterwards to insist that their organizations had not received anything from the Islamic Conference committee since January.

The letter said that the government contributions were given to help Afghans in their struggle against the Soviet Union, "until the last Soviet soldier has left Afghanistan", break off diplomatic relations with the Kabul regime—most of the member governments have frozen diplomatic relations following the January call to sever relations and set up offices of the Afghan National Liberation Front in all the Muslim countries.

The significance of these

Hostages issue is barred for UN envoy

Tehran, May 20.—Iran said today that a United Nations envoy coming to Tehran to meet Iranian officials could not talk about the release of the 53 American hostages.

Mr Sadeq Qorbadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, who is now in Islamabad, restricted the role of the envoy in a letter sent to Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, and published by Paris News Agency.

An earlier Foreign Ministry statement denounced reports of a deal for a three-phase release of the hostages and reiterated that the fate of the captives still had to be decided by the Iranian Parliament, which would convene on June 20.

The announcement of Mr Qorbadeh's letter came after reports from New York that Dr Waldheim was sending Mr Habib Daoudy, a Syrian lawyer, to Tehran with instructions to the Islamic Conference committee since January.

The letter said that Mr Daoudy could only "complete the previous investigation" into the alleged crimes of the deposed Shah.—UPI.

British businessman found guilty by Lebanese court

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, May 20

Handcuffed to another prisoner and guarded by three policemen armed with automatic rifles, Mr Peter Sainsbury, the British businessman who has been imprisoned in Lebanon for two and a half years, was found guilty of bank

irregularities by a Lebanese court this morning.

He was given a two-year sentence and fined about £80. In a separate ruling the court decided that he was liable to pay part of an £800,000 reimbursement to the Lebanese Bank, which brought charges against him in the first place.

In theory, Mr Sainsbury is probably free to leave for London tomorrow, since he has already served his sentence. But the bank may try to ensure his presence for further hearings on the reimbursement.

Neither the court nor the British Embassy seemed certain of Mr Sainsbury's exact legal status. He says he wants to stay in Lebanon to appeal against the judgment, although the Lebanese authorities may not permit this.

Mr Sainsbury, who is 37 and comes from Hereford, came to Lebanon in 1976 as director of the London-based Farm Fund Securities Company to confirm a deal with the Banque D'Egypte Libanaise. The bank subsequently claimed that he and four associates had committed irregularities against it totalling about £800,000.

Mr Sainsbury was arrested in 1977, but was in prison for more than two years because of the chaos after the Lebanese civil war.

Indeed,



met paratrooper clubbing a demonstrator during anti-government riots in the South Korean town of Kwangju.

bul Cabinet its leaving ny in power

Jacqueline Reditt

May 20

Stan Hyon-Hwack, the South Prime Minister, and his Cabinet tendered their resignations today in the country in the hands of Heay.

Lee Kyoo Byun, the Minister of Education, explained that the Government had decided to resign because it is accountable for the unprecedented unrest in the country.

Many Koreans confirmed what

readily feared, that the declaration

martial law on Saturday was far

more serious than a mere tightening up of security.

Earlier in the day all 66 Assembly members of the opposition New Democratic Party had decided to resign after 45 of their members were turned away from the National Assembly building by armed troops, supported by tanks and armoured troop carriers. They had intended to stage a sit-in protest in the National Assembly until martial law was lifted.

Mr Kim Young-Sam, the New Democratic Party leader, held a press conference today in defiance of martial law regulations which ban all political activity and unauthorized meetings.

About 20 Korean journalists were able to enter the conference room but some 40 foreign correspondents were barred by soldiers.

Mr Kim Young-Sam called for the immediate lifting of martial law, and the release of all those detained since the weekend. He urged the soldiers to

return to their barracks and their proper task of defending the nation against possible North Korean aggression.

In the south-western town of Kwangju the Army was reported to have disarmed the police, who are all local residents, and when it came to fighting their own relatives and neighbours, their loyalties were divided.

The townsmen clashed with riot police and soldiers yesterday angered by the rough treatment meted out to demonstrating students.

One student publication confirmed that troops had killed seven people, including three students, giving names, ages and occupations.

A source close to the military hospital where most of the injured were taken, put the number of dead at 89, but because of an almost total blackout of information it was not possible to confirm this figure. Clashes were said to be continuing today.

A small demonstration by students in Seoul was crushed by troops almost before it began. Seoul is heavily guarded by troops supported by tanks and armoured troop carriers, but life in the city is proceeding as usual.

The South Korean Supreme Court today confirmed the death sentence on Kim Jae-Kyu, the former chief of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, who pleaded guilty to the assassination of President Park Chung-Hee last October.

Mr Kim and four other co-conspirators, who were also sentenced to death by hanging, are expected to be executed within a few days.

In his defence, Mr Kim said he had shot the President to restore democracy to South Korea, but the court found him guilty of plotting to seize power himself. Some students and dissident politicians consider Mr Kim as a hero and it is feared that his execution may further aggravate the unrest.

Japan's ruling party faces open split with plan to oust Mr Ohira

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, May 20

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party drifted closer to an open split today as the adversaries of Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister, set up a political base to oust him after a crucial general election next month.

Mr Yosio Sakuruchi, the party secretary-general, said formation of the body might openly split the party.

Party workers said Mr Ohira's two main foes, Mr Takeo Miki and Mr Takeo Fukuda, would remain in the party for now, but may support Mr Komoto.

Mr Komoto criticized Mr Ohira, saying he should have resigned instead of dissolving Parliament to seek a new majority from the electorate.

The anti-Ohira committee was set up by Mr Komoto, a former Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr Shintaro Abe, a former chairman of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council, and Mr Ichiro Nakagawa, a former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the party executive committee has not yet decided whether the rebels will be given an official ticket for the election.

Conservative leaders and businessmen expressed fears today that they may stand as independent candidates if they do not receive a party ticket.

This would split the vote and Opposition parties would make substantial gains when the country goes to the polls on June 22 to elect new Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

Mr Mugabe urged white farmers to remain

Mr Mugabe urges white farmers to remain

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, May 20

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, has urged Zimbabwe's white farmers to stay and help develop the country. He promised that his government would pay full and fair compensation for any land nationalized for the nationalization programme.

Mr Mugabe told 300 farmers at a meeting in Salisbury that they had a guaranteed future. He addressed them at their request amid fears that their land would be seized without compensation and in the face of increasing reports of cattle theft and the widespread pilfering of crops.

The government would crack down on the culprits, the Prime Minister said. Zimbabwe's 3,500 white farmers produce most of the country's food and employ half the nation's labour force.

The farmers seemed reassured by Mr Mugabe's speech which followed the same tone of previous speeches and statements he has made since assuming office just over a month ago.

That whites have nothing to fear if they accept change but are prepared to contribute to the common good.

One white farmer said after hearing him speak: "I was thinking of quitting the country but after hearing Mr Mugabe I, and many like me, will stay on and see how things work out. Mr Mugabe was very reasonable, very sensitive to our problems and very genuine in his assurances."

Meanwhile, another member of the government, Mr Edgar Tekere, Minister of Manpower Planning and Development, has criticized senior white civil servants for failing to inform their ministers of senior appointments.

He said in a television interview that when many new ministers went to their offices soon after coming to power, they found people being promoted without consultation. The appointments, he claimed, had been made in the same racial manner as followed by former governments—that is promoting people solely because they were white.

It is known that over the years Rhodesian governments have also allowed former white government employees to retire and then be re-employed thus drawing a pension and a fresh salary. The clerical branches have long been full of former soldiers and policemen and with many specialists automatically staying on after reaching retirement age.

There has been a great deal of Africanization since Bishop Abel Muzorewa won the 1979 general election, but obviously the administration of Mr Mugabe believes the pace has to be accelerated. Many whites drawing salaries and pensions may now have to give way to blacks.

Such is the level of guerrilla activity that the whole of Ovamboland, where almost half the total population of the territory live, together with parts of neighbouring Kaokoland, have been declared "red areas". These areas are covered by a dusk-to-dawn curfew and civilian vehicles have to travel in convoys during the day.

The Ovambo and Ondangwa with Tsumeb, which is the main artery between Ovamboland and the rest of the country, has come under increasing attack. Bridges have been blown up and Swapo has recently started planting land mines under the road surface.

So far the war is largely restricted to Ovamboland and the Ondangwa with Tsumeb, which is the main artery between Ovamboland and the rest of the country, has come under increasing attack. Bridges have been blown up and Swapo has recently started planting land mines under the road surface.

The Madras High Court ruled that the elephant should bear a Y-shaped mark. But the other community, favouring a U-shape, appealed to the Supreme Court, whose interim order said next week's procession should be led by two elephants, one with a Y-shaped mark, the other with a U-shaped one. —Reuter

Turkish politician killed but attack on general fails

From Sinan Fisik
Ankara, May 20

For the first time since the present wave of political violence began in Turkey about 30 months ago, terrorists attempted today to assassinate a senior army officer.

Mr Majeed Sabri Demiray, Commander of the Infantry School at Tuzla, near Istanbul, was just left his residence in Fenerbahce, on Istanbul's Asian side, in his official car when three people opened fire with automatic weapons. General Demiray was wounded in the foot and the attackers escaped in a stolen vehicle.

Attacks by extreme right-wing terrorists on regional leaders of the Republican People's Party continued today with the murder of Mr Bandaranaike's Governor.

He added, prison terms to 20 years, and confessed to police officers dismissible in court.

Bandaranaike had been seen to cross-examine any of the witnesses before his trial. She would also be right to bring fresh charges or make submissions to the court.

De Silva said it was not that before the Special Commission investigated misdeeds committed.

Mr Sirmaya Bandara's term of office from 1977 that she had no right to participate in proceedings.

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Cossutta (left) and Renato Bruson in Act II of *Otello*.

Iuti fulfills all his Verdian promise

of Europe's most distinguished film directors are their first shots at staging this year. Next week John Schlesinger, after a second thought and a postponement, goes to Covent Garden for the new *of Hoffmann*. But his Texan colleagues Miklos and in ahead of him directing Verdi's *Otello*, has just opened the third Maggio Musicale inice.

comes as less of a surprise than the name of Jancsó on

sters outside the Teatro

alls than it would on

ards of most other opera

Under the administra-

Massimo Bogiancino,

in both its winter and

seasons has never been

an adventurous. Indeed,

seems to be an outright

to accept the tried and

the Teatro Comunale

employs the directors

their suitcases full

ady-to-stage produc-

the operatic circuit.

Cossino is calmly phi-

about his determination

house room to the con-

and untested. Accord-

him it is rather like

in the hostage-rescuing

as: if you succeed you

hero and if you fail you

accept the villain's role.

no coincidence that the

who has worked most

ately at the Teatro Com-

the past few seasons

La Roncione. He is capable

productions, such as

at the 1976 Maggio,

at other times he seems

to be determined to

raspberries at the con-

purpose.

Although the musical element

alone has been recorded, the

work demands to be seen as

much as heard, and ought therefore to be a subject for video-cassettes, particularly because

Mr Louthier is still on hand to

to it, though it deserves

more than the rudimentary

lighting it was given on

Monday.

Maxwell Davies was also

represented by his instrumenta-

of the C sharp minor and

C sharp major preludes and

fugues from Bach's 48, in which

the marimba-dominated texture

(with Gregory Knowles, the

player) was oddly reminiscent

of Milk Jackson's contribution

in the old Modern Jazz Quartet.

The marimba was again to the

fore in King Harold Sails to

Byzantium, a short tone-poem

by Judith Weir, heard for the

first time in London after being

premiered at last summer's

Orkney festival. The music sug-

gests that the eleventh century

Viking monarch found his pas-

age through the Sea of Marmara

both choppy and congested,

but a certain flair for con-

trasts of instrumental timbre

attracts the ear along the way.

The arrival of the "swan-

breasted ship" in the golden

city, however, sounded some-

thing of an anti-climax. Perhaps

it was raining.

ventionalists. At the end of the *Norma* he directed in Florence the shout went up from the back of the stalls "Ronconi in Arno". But he avoided a Falstaffian ducking in that muddy river in front of the theatre and he returns during the forthcoming winter in stage, like Schlesinger, *The Tales of Hoffmann*.

Part of the audience undoubtedly went to the first night of *Otello* expecting to see some Ronconian fireworks. Jancsó on the evidence of his films, particularly the earlier ones made in Hungary including *The Round-Up*, *The Red and the White* and *Silence and Cry*, knows something about warfare and the military mind. He has also directed Shakespeare's *Othello* on stage in Venice six years ago. In sum, he looked a choice that managed to be sound and controversial at the same time. But the sensation-seekers came away disappointed. The most striking element in Jancsó's *Otello* was its anonymity.

Jancsó's style has been quite literally cramped by the set of Enrico Job, who happens to be the husband of Line Wermuth, so forging another cinematic link. Mr Job has strung a series of arcades in russet and silver stripes across the right of the stage; they remote there throughout the evening. The action is virtually confined to the left, where a flight of steps leads up to a piece of statuary, which is the only element to change with the acts.

The curtain goes up on the dazzling white proscenium, which is a reasonable enough

symbol for Act I. The tree

is a reasonable enough

symbol for Act II. The tree

is a reasonable enough

symbol for Act III.

which replaces it for the second

act is less relevant: the lion,

which bizarrely has its head in

darkness for the most of Act

III, is obvious; and the Bernini-

like sheet symbolising Desdemona's bedroom in the final act

is merely perverse. The effect

is deliberately sculptural rather

than scenic. Job's idea, appar-

ently, is to suggest the interior

of a church where the story of

Otello is played out as a rite.

The only problem with this

approach is that Verdi

happened to compose after

the photograph of Tamago, who

created the role, peering round the curtain in the last

act. And Jancsó's voice car-

ries much of the baritonal

character that Tamago pos-

sesses, if existing records are

to be trusted. Cossutta, spurred

on no doubt by Mudi and

Bruson, sang well above hum-

self. Renato Scorrà, Desdemona

in Domingo's *Otello* in the RCA

recording, is now one of the

world's best Verdi sopranos, as

regular visitors to the Met in

New York are well aware. She

plays Desdemona as almost

ingenuous, a woman whose

basic sensibility is constantly

ruffled by fears she does not

comprehend. Miss Scorrà

throughout sings both sweetly

and fearfully.

exercises total control: the "Credo" was not the familiar snarling outburst, but something much lighter, more subtle and hence more dangerous. Covent Garden so far has not heard Bruson at his best; Florence in this *Otello* has.

Mudi has made one major change in the score usually performed. He has gone back to the version Verdi rewrote for the Paris premiere, which at the end of the third act gives more prominence to Iago and demotes the role of the chorus.

He has not, I am happy to report, been tempted by the

ballet added in for Paris, whose main interest lies in the fact that it was composed after

Falstaff and so is Verdi's last

work for the stage. Verdi and his librettist Boito began by calling their opera *Iago* until

Verdi realized that such a

decision would be perverse. There was early talk too of

treating *Otello* as a domestic

opera rather than as a big

choral piece. Certainly Verdi

went on fretting about the

weight or lack of it, given to

Iago, as the letters printed in

Florence's excellent and scholarly

programme demonstrate.

Whether this Paris alternative

is better than the score usually

played depends basically on the

quality of the baritone. No-one

could have argued it more

eloquently or more forcefully

than Renato Bruson in partner-

ship with Mudi. Bruson plays

Iago not as a toad, a slimy thing

from the dark corners of

Cyprus, but as a handsome and

ambitious adversary breathing

down *Otello*'s bull-like neck.

Iago is the man on his way

up—he is a good deal younger

than *Otello* and there is plenty

of support in Shakespeare for

this—while the Venetian gen-

eral is on his way down. The

middle and upper register of

Bruson's baritone has a rich,

burnished tone over which he

John Higgins

Book review

Thoughts of a lost leader

The Real War

By Richard Nixon

(Sidgwick & Jackson, £8.95) This is a book with an avowed purpose, to warn the people of the West of the imminent dangers of Soviet expansionism to other areas of the world and to themselves in the next decade. In those historic words "The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance" and with it preparedness, and the will to fight for freedom if need be.

Richard Nixon has every right to issue such a warning for if the historian of the future is fair to him he will conclude that in his strategic decisions on foreign policy he was largely justified. He was unwavering in his support for the Western alliance, resolute but unprovocative in his attitude towards the Soviet Union, and forthcoming in his approach to the People's Republic of China, which led ultimately to the resumption of diplomatic relations between Washington and Peking. Above all he thought in terms of a world strategy for the United States.

He recognized the need for American forces to withdraw from Vietnam despite the risks involved, just as the present

PARLIAMENT, May 20, 1980

Sanctions orders against Iran throughout EEC to cover same ground

House of Commons

The House of Commons had made it clear that the inclusion of retrospective, however limited, in sanctions orders against Iran was unacceptable. The Government had therefore decided that sanctions would not be retrospective, Sir Ian Gilmore, the Lord Privy Seal, stated.

He was responding to an emergency debate initiated by Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab) who said that circumstances had changed since the debate yesterday.

At a time, Mr Dalyell said, when decisions on foreign affairs, particularly with our EEC partners, are by nature very far reaching, the emergency debate procedure represents the best brake which the House of Commons had over what would otherwise be fait accompli.

What is salutary about yesterday's episode (he went on) is that it means that a minister, however senior, however prestigious, can be overruled by the emergency debate procedure, the Americans or anyone else, must seriously ask himself this question: can I be sure that the House of Commons will wear such a policy?

What yesterday proved is that the House of Commons is not going to be a rubber stamp for any Government and that a minister at any time may have to face the hurdle of the emergency debate procedure.

Brussels meeting to coordinate action

House of Lords

Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and his Under-Secretary, Sir Ian Gilmore, Lord Privy Seal, had said in replying to the Commons emergency debate on sanction sanctions against Iran, particularly the announcement that retrospective would not apply in imposing such measures.

Lord Gorbachev-Roberts, Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the question of timing had involved the Government in some difficulty in the past few days. Would the orders in each country not only cover the same ground but be timed to be operative from the same date?

The Government has (he went on) already informed our United States and European partners of the decision not to apply any element of retrospective sanctions. He said that, as far as Britain, Australia and New Zealand, had been informed, and can give us some idea of the reactions to the decision.

He can be assured of our support in whatever further friendly representations he feels he has to make to our partners.

May we be assured that the Government supports the new United Nations initiative in Tehran, which coincides with some encouraging remarks by President Sadat-Sadr and the decision of the Iranian administration to bring forward to next week the meeting of the Iranian Parliament which the Ayatollah has said has the power to decide the future of the hostages?

Lord Gladwyn said it made clear to him in our committee of the Council that our agreement to retrospective sanctions was dependent on the consent of Parliament?

Will it be necessary to have another urgent meeting of the Council to apply the fresh decision on sanctions generally? If so, does Lord Carrington think that our

Sir Ian Gilmore (Chesham and Amersham, C), said that after his statement yesterday about decisions taken on the implementation of sanctions, and the view by foreign ministers at the EEC meeting in Naples over the weekend, the House made its view clear—that the inclusion of retrospective, however limited, was unacceptable.

The Government has therefore decided (he went on) that sanctions will not be retrospective. (Cheers.)

No orders will be laid before the House which bar the supply of goods under arrangements made before the date on which those orders were laid.

Last night, we informed our European Community partners and the Government that the United States, in view of the opposition of this House, we would no longer be prepared to apply any element of retrospective among the decisions we agreed to at Naples but that arrangements which bar the supply of arms would not be forthcoming.

The result of the decision not to go ahead with the retrospective element in the decision of the Nine will now mean that the Orders in Council which will be laid before the House to implement sanctions will not apply in the event of any orders under arrangements made before the date of those orders.

The Government hopes to make those orders as soon as possible. But it is our intention to make sure that those orders cover the

same ground as parallel orders that our Community partners will be making to give effect to the sanctions measure which we have all agreed.

It is important to make sure we all go along this road at the same pace and cover the same ground.

The necessary procedures (he said) for coordinating with our partners are already in hand. When the orders are laid before the House there will be an opportunity for the House to debate them.

He recalled that an assurance had already been given that any orders made under the Act would lapse if the House did not approve them within 28 days. Although the 1939 Act did not provide that orders made under it should be subject to the resolution of the House, nevertheless because of the change in the nature of the operation of the EEC, the Government had undertaken to revoke any orders made under the 1939 Act if the approval of the House for the orders was not forthcoming.

The House had agreed in its resolution of the illegal detention of the American hostages. The Government thought it right to play a leading part in working towards their release.

One of the measures decided upon in conjunction with the European partners will be the implementation of the sanctions put forward in the revised Security Council resolution.

Although the Government recog-

nized that the temporary provisions Bill of the House yesterday, when they heard Sir Ian Gilmore's statement, strongly disagreed that they had been deceived during the two days debate last week.

His own view was that the Government had not intended to decide last Monday and Tuesday but was forced retrospectively to decide by the agreements it reached on Saturday and Sunday in Naples.

If it was the intention at some time in the future for the Government to seek the approval of the House to activate the provisions of the 1939 Act, he hoped the Government would lay the order on the affirmative order procedure rather than an order which reflected the kind of order which was in the temporary provisions Act.

Otherwise the House would be in the situation of having to deal with an order which came into effect before the Commons had a chance to debate it. This would be contrary to the wishes of the House.

The events had a most important lesson on the conduct of foreign policy. Provided that ministers had the support of the House to conclude firm agreements with other countries on all occasions.

But if ministers think the said in their dealings with other countries they are free agents who can yield to the pressure of other nations and just assume the con-

sequence of the House, they would be profoundly mistaken.

This was important in Britain's relations with the United States and the EEC. Britain was the friend and ally and with the limited objectives of securing the release of the hostages.

His own view was that the Government had not intended to decide last Monday and Tuesday but was forced retrospectively to decide by the agreements it reached on Saturday and Sunday in Naples.

But we have the right and the duty (he continued) to decide the nature and the timing of the measures that we can take to assist in their release. It is our judgment and not our obedience we offer.

The view of the House and the Government had been clear last week. It was to proceed slowly using modest sanctions as an accompaniment to diplomatic and political measures. Stronger measures were not ruled out later date but it was not the view that now was the time to invoke them.

They had known the United States had a different view but that was not in any way sufficient reason for the Foreign Secretary to go further than the House had intended.

The lesson for the EEC is clear. The members can be no greater example of a common foreign policy or speaking with one voice except on those occasions where it is the will of this House to do so.

The result of the Naples agreement and last night's resolution was a shambles. He did not welcome the situation where foreign policy was in the House of Lords.

There was an obvious desire that senior ministers would be content of such and insensitive action in view of the understandings of the House. This was more a problem when the Foreign Secretary was in the House of Lords.

There had been a classic example of such insensitivity yesterday. The Lord Privy Seal had tried to make a distinction between the orders under the 1939 Act and that of last week. This will take place as soon as possible.

The question was that if we know

Figures represent facts of economic life

Given the world situation and the uncompetitive state of parts of the steel industry, unemployment was bound to rise and the Minister of State for Employment, said during questions, had the support of the House to implement sanctions.

Mr John Grant (Islington, C) asked what was the latest information on the conduct of foreign policy. Might it not even increase the agitation in favour of some military action in Iran which we all consider would be dangerous?

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the question of timing had involved the Government in some difficulty in the past few days.

Would the minister assure that the orders in each country not only cover the same ground but be timed to be operative from the same date?

The Government has (he went on) already informed our United States and European partners of the decision not to apply any element of retrospective sanctions. He said that, as far as Britain, Australia and New Zealand, had been informed, and can give us some idea of the reactions to the decision.

He can be assured of our support in whatever further friendly representations he feels he has to make to our partners.

May we be assured that the Government supports the new United Nations initiative in Tehran, which coincides with some encouraging remarks by President Sadat-Sadr and the decision of the Iranian administration to bring forward to next week the meeting of the Iranian Parliament which the Ayatollah has said has the power to decide the future of the hostages?

Lord Gladwyn said it made clear to him in our committee of the Council that our agreement to retrospective sanctions was dependent on the consent of Parliament?

Will it be necessary to have another urgent meeting of the Council to apply the fresh decision on sanctions generally? If so, does Lord Carrington think that our

colleagues will all be content to apply only to future conflicts?

Is there not a danger that public opinion in America will be rather provoked by this reversal of policy? Might it not even increase the agitation in favour of some military action in Iran which we all consider would be dangerous?

Lord Carrington—I share Lord Gladwyn's concern about the effect that this decision might have upon the United States. It is important that our allies should realize the situation in which the Government finds itself.

I am sure that Senator Muskie, who is a senator of some considerable standing, will understand the situation of a government which relies on Parliament for its support.

I am equally sure he will understand that it does not in any way mean that anyone in this country is backing away from the support given to the United States about Iran and the hostages and our determination to see all we can to help in the way of a settlement.

Regarding the other eight countries of Europe we are concerned, there is a meeting being urgently called in Brussels of the permanent representatives, not a council meeting, to co-ordinate the sanctions which will need to be re-adjusted as a result of this decision.

We intend not only that all of us should do the same things but that they should operate from the same moment. The other countries have been informed, but I do not know what the reaction might have been.

Lord Carrington—I am not so sure that the reaction might have been.

Lord Gladwyn—I am not so sure that the reaction might have been.

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With regard to the allegations, these were made some time ago and were taken seriously, as they should be, when they were made.

They were investigated independently and were found largely to be unfounded, but where they were well founded, the requisite improvements were put into operation.

Has Mrs Thatcher initiated any investigation into these allegations, and will she make a report to the House in due course?

Mrs Thatcher—I have indicated my view to the House in due course?

Mr Foot—I am grateful to Mr Foot for his intervention.

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The migratory behaviour of European birds.



Greater Whitethroat
Summer: Sun-warmed scrub thickets all over Europe.
Winter: Chiefly bush regions of the Sahel zone.



Marsh Warbler
Summer: Chiefly eastern Europe.
Winter: Bush and grass country of East Africa.



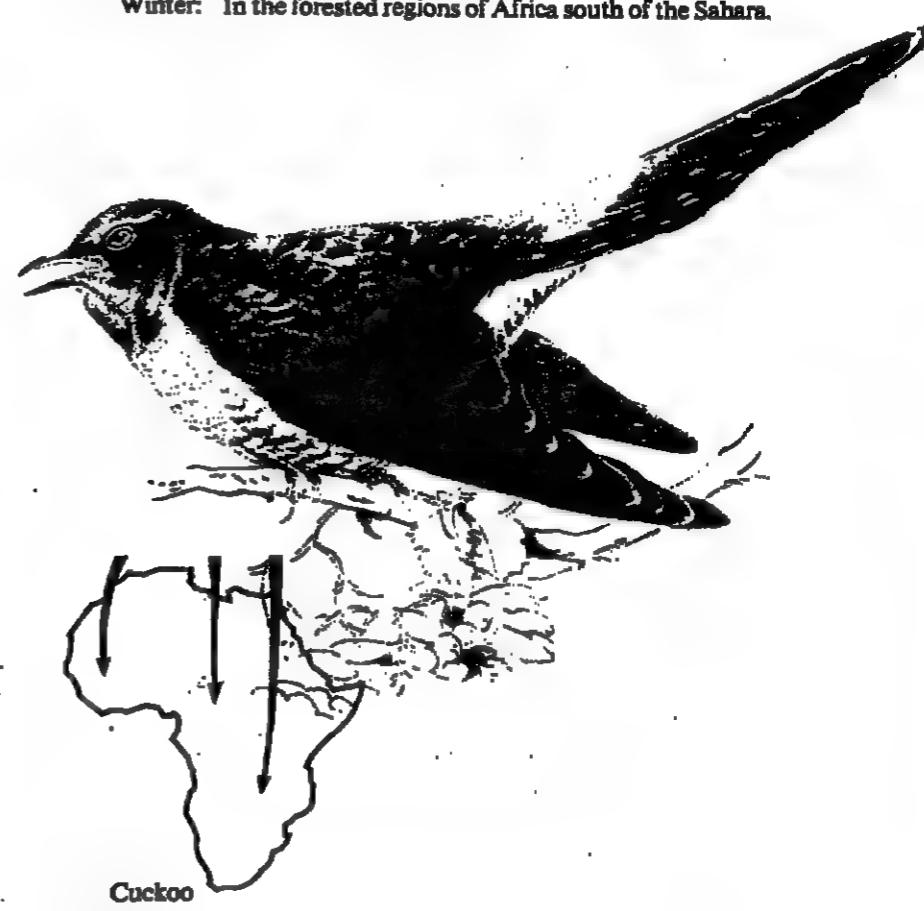
Oriole
Summer: Central and southern Europe.
Winter: In the forested regions of Africa south of the Sahara.



Barn Swallow
Summer: Europe, except extreme north.
Winter: Africa south of 10° north latitude.



Red-backed Shrike
Summer: Central Europe.
Winter: Between tropical Africa and the Cape.



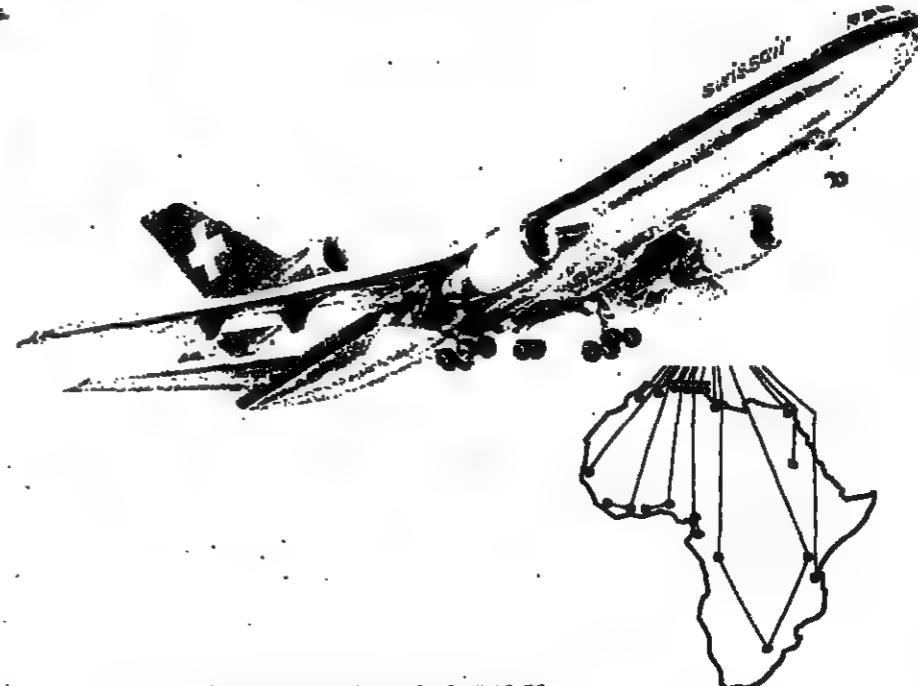
Cuckoo
Summer: All over Europe.
Winter: Savannas and forested regions of Africa.



Swift
Summer: Europe, except for extreme north.
Winter: Tropical and subtropical Africa.



Redstart
Summer: Breeds all over Europe up to the tree-line.
Winter: In the savannas and bush steppes between Sahara and equator.



Swissair McDonnell Douglas DC-10-30.
Summer and winter: Central Europe (Switzerland) and Africa.
Flies regardless of season, fifty-four times a week from Switzerland to nineteen African cities. (Four times to Casablanca, twice to Oran, six times to Algiers, twice to Annaba, four times to Tunis, four times to Tripoli, five times to Cairo, twice to Khartoum, twice to Nairobi, twice to Dar es Salaam, three times to Johannesburg, twice to Kinshasa, once to Libreville, once to Douala, four times to Lagos, three times to Accra, twice to Abidjan, twice to Monrovia, and three times to Dakar).
Research has shown that this bird appears in Africa with striking regularity at exactly the same hours, and flies back to Central Europe (Switzerland).
Markings: White cross on red tail.

We are grateful to the Swiss Ornithological Station, Sempach, for their scientific counsel and information. All these birds are so-called "long-range migrants", who—except for those that hunt in flight (the swifts and swallows)—migrate at night, covering as much as 400 to

800 km in a single hop by exploiting tail winds. Studies have shown that they can cross the Mediterranean and the Sahara non-stop; they fix their position by the stars and the earth's magnetic fields. Further information on flight movements of the

DC-10-30 and its related species, the DC-8 and DC-9, can be obtained from your travel agent or Swissair.

swissair

SPORT

Football

Gray sits out Wales match in hope of facing the English

Andy Gray, the striker will watch Scotland's Home International Championship match with Wales at Hampden today in the hope of being fit to face England on Saturday. Gray, who had an ice pack on his right knee at the start of the Argentine coast highway, said: "I have played against England at every level except senior, and that's something I do not want to miss. It was frustrating missing the Northern Ireland match to return for 'Wolves' game against Arsenal only to strain my knee. But I am determined to be available to face England."

John Stein, the Scotland manager, admitted: "Andy could have played against Wales at a pinch, but that might have ended his chances of facing England, or playing on tour in Poland and Hungary."

Scotland will be a £1 million spectre as Scotland challenge Wales with a team showing seven changes—two of them positional—from the side which began the 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland last Friday. Out go Billy Thomson, George Surley, David Narey, Graeme Souness and Steve McManaman. Alan Rough, Paul Hegarty, Willie Miller, Iain Munro and Joe Jordan are drafted in. Danny McGrain switches from left to right back and Alex McLeish moves from the back four to midfield.

Mr Stein, who, with his team's Ray Stewart and Alan Hanson of Liverpool, has now lost Souness for the matches against England, Poland and Hungary, "Injuries and unavailability mean I am no nearer finding an established side", said Mr Stein.

Eintracht in confident mood for return leg

Frankfurt, May 20.—A confident Eintracht Frankfurt meet Borussia Mönchengladbach in the return match of the all-West German UEFA Cup final tomorrow knowing that they are one goal away to capture the trophy. Borussia, Uefa cup winners last year, won the first leg 3-2 against the run of play and in the event of an aggregate draw, Eintracht would decide on the basis of away goals scored.

Frankfurt's 60,000-capacity Wald stadium is sold out for the match, which is being televised live to 12 countries. A West German television spokesman commented: "Plans to use the goal posts again after the poor fare served up by Valencia and Arsenal in the Cup Winners Cup final last week" Frankfurt are still without their captain, Jürgen Grabowski, injured in an earlier league match against Mönchengladbach.

Bolton are the favourites to sign Kidd

Bolton Wanderers and Oldham Athletic both want to sign Everton's former England striker, Brian Kidd. But relegated Bolton are the favourites.

Gordon Lee, the Everton manager, has offered Kidd to Bolton and carried him beyond the 101st mark of the Yugoslav Ilijas Mitic, who retired two years ago.

Chicago, 33, had the NASL Markmene last season and is joint top scorer for this season. Like Roger Davier (formerly of Derby and now with the United States Sounders), he has scored nine.

Davier, aged 30, said: "I have asked Gordon Lee to keep me informed about which clubs are interested and I am waiting to hear from him. I am not on the transfer list, but Everton want to bring in a younger player, and they are prepared to let me go."

"I still have two years of my contract to go, but I have told the manager I would be prepared to talk to any interested club."

Today's football

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: Scotland v Wales (Hampden Park, 8.00); UEFA CUP: Final: Frankfurt v Borussia Mönchengladbach (7.00). —Reuter.

Dutch in last four

Leipzig, May 20.—The Netherlands qualified for the semi-final round of the European junior football championship by drawing 0-0 with East Germany at Magdeburg today.

The draw meant that The Netherlands qualify as group two winners. In the other group match, played at Pemig, to finish best Bulgaria, 7-0, to Poland.

The group of four England and Northern Ireland recorded victories. England beat Yugoslavia, 2-0, in Altenburg.

in Altenburg and Northern Ireland defeated Portugal with the only goal of their match in Ochsenz. In group A, Italy reached the last four after a 1-1 draw with Norway.

RESULTS: GROUP A: Spain 2, Hungary 1; West Germany 1, Norway 0; Italy 1, Portugal 1; Poland 0, Yugoslavia 7; Portugal 0, Poland 1; East Germany 0, Netherlands 0; in Magdeburg, 0-0; in Pemig, Bulgaria 7, Poland 0.

GROUP B: England 2, Northern Ireland 1; Portugal 2, Yugoslavia 1; Norway 1, Scotland 0; Scotland 1, Northern Ireland 0; Portugal 1, Northern Ireland 0; Northern Ireland 1, Yugoslavia 0 in Altenburg.

Science report

Paediatrics: Clue to cot deaths

By the Staff of *Nature*

Every year in the United Kingdom some 2,000 apparently healthy babies between one week and two years old die suddenly and unexpectedly, most of them before the age of eight months. The cause of this sudden infant death syndrome, or cot death, as it is also called, has puzzled doctors for many years.

Now Dr A. R. Johnson and Dr R. Hood of the C.R.C. Division of the Royal College of Physicians, and Dr J. L. Emery of the Sheffield Children's Hospital have discovered a possible link between the incidence of cot death and the amount of biotin, one of the B vitamins, in the infant liver.

Their theory is one of several proposed to explain an otherwise puzzling pattern of great distress to families everywhere. Many lines of evidence point to the cause being an abnormality in the mechanism which controls breathing and renders the infant particularly vulnerable while asleep (hence the name cot death).

Another recent study has found that parents of cot death victims show low responses to certain tests of breathing, suggesting a possible hereditary factor in the syndrome.

Dr Johnson, Dr Hood and Dr Emery base their theory on a similarity they noted between the sudden infant death syndrome and a disorder in chickens known as fatty liver and kidney disease.

Biotin is one of the vitamins manufactured by bacteria that

Athletics



Sebastian Coe: criticized Steve Ovett and the AAA for contriving an ill-timed meeting.

Coe to race Ovett only when both are ready

By Norman Fox

Sebastian Coe, the triple world record holder, has not been provoked into accepting Steve Ovett's challenge to run in tonight's Bannister Mile during the Philip Morris Night of Athletes at Crystal Palace. What is more his reply, given yesterday, showed that he was not even annoyed by the invitation that was never likely to be taken seriously.

Ovett issued his challenge after winning the 800m at Camborne on Sunday. Originally he had entered tonight's 800m, but after impressive early-season form felt moved to attempt to rifle Coe into a race that, when it happens, should be the highlight of the season and, as far as Coe is concerned, may not be run and both are completely ready. That could be as late as the Olympic Games.

Coe felt a twinge of leg muscle pain last week and for a time was unable to run. He has now recovered and the Sports Council will be receiving recommendations from a working party set up to look at the matter.

"The situation is goaded at this moment to the Olympic Games. I am not at this moment actually running races, but when the schedule was put might be misleading, not to say injurious, to one or both of us," Steve Ovett has never in the past been prepared to run a race which did not suit his purpose and has been known to manipulate the field for his races.

"I believe it is wrong of him and the AAA, besides being unfair to the public, to contrive a race between us at short notice at this time. I am as eager to race against the best opposition as he is and have always sought it, and I look forward to racing Ovett when I am ready."

Another West German, the famous World Cup player Gerd Miller, scored in Fort Lauderdale Strikers' 2-1 win over the Welsh Diplomats. The Chilean, Eduardo Boulanger, got the Diplomats, who have lost five of their eight matches, despite the presence of Jóhann Cruyff.

Olympic Games

Ireland choose to attend

By Rex Bellamy

Ireland's Olympic council decided on Monday night by 19 votes to one, with three abstentions, to send teams to the Moscow Games—although the boxing association will not be represented. Consideration must be given to the wishes and views of the government, they say.

RESULTS: Group A: Spain 2, Hungary 1; West Germany 1, Italy 0; Norway 0, Bulgaria 7; France 7, (in Ponferrada); East Germany 0, Netherlands 0; in Madgeburg, 0-0; in Pemig, Bulgaria 7, Poland 1; in Ochsenz, Hungary 2, Yugoslavia 0 in Altenburg.

RESULTS: Group B: England 2, Northern Ireland 1; Portugal 2, Yugoslavia 1; Norway 1, Scotland 0; Scotland 1, Northern Ireland 0; Northern Ireland 1, Yugoslavia 0 in Altenburg.

RESULTS: Group C: Italy 2, France 1; West Germany 1, Poland 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, Poland 1, West Germany 0; in Altenburg, Italy 2, France 1.

RESULTS: Group D: Yugoslavia 2, France 1; Italy 1, West Germany 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group E: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group F: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group G: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group H: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group I: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group J: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group K: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group L: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group M: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group N: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group O: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group P: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group Q: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group R: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group S: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group T: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group U: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group V: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group W: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group X: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group Y: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group Z: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group AA: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group BB: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group CC: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group DD: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group EE: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group FF: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group GG: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group HH: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group II: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group JJ: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group KK: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

RESULTS: Group LL: France 2, West Germany 1; Italy 1, Yugoslavia 0; in Pemig, France 7, (in Ponferrada); Italy 2, West Germany 0; in Ochsenz, West Germany 1, France 0; in Altenburg, West Germany 1, France 0.

Edward Mortimer on the painful rebirth of an Islamic state

Pakistan: has General Zia got his Islamic priorities wrong?

If any state should logically be an Islamic one, it is Pakistan. But for Islam, Pakistan would not exist as a separate country. It was created so that the Muslims of India could govern themselves in their own way. What should that way be, if not the way of the Koran and the Sunnah—the tradition of the Prophet and his first successors?

That was indeed the proclaimed intention of the Muslim movement in India before partition, and Pakistan in its successive constitutions, of 1956, 1962 and 1973, committed itself to ordering the lives of Muslims in the Islamic way. But there has always been some ambiguity about the extent to which this commitment should be taken literally. For some Indian Muslims the main motive for demanding a separate state had been negative—the desire to escape from discrimination or persecution by the Hindus—rather than a positive desire for an Islamic state as such.

Moreover, almost all educated Pakistanis were profoundly influenced by the institutions and traditions introduced into India by the British. To revert to a purely Islamic system after well over a century of British rule was no simple matter. Inevitably, there have been endless arguments about how far Islamic law can be applied in modern conditions, how it should be interpreted, and how much of it should be enforced by the state.

When the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto launched his programme of social reforms, he deemed it prudent to adopt the label of "Islamic socialism". In spite of this he was bitterly opposed by an alliance of fundamentalist groups and parties representing the *ulama*—the "learned men" who are Islam's nearest equivalent to a clergy. They made the election look like a choice between Islam and socialism", recalls Dr Shamsul Akbar, a liberal Islamicist whom Bhutto appointed to the Council of Islamic Ideology. "But the masses chose the PPP"—Bhutto's party.

Bhutto used a good deal of Islamic rhetoric, partly to retain his mass support and partly to gain that of other Muslim governments. But few doubted that his true outlook was a secular one, and it was only near the end of his regime, when he was losing ground to the Pakistani National Alliance, in which the Islamic parties were so prominent, that he adopted such measures as prohibition and the moving of the weekly day of rest from Sunday to Friday.

However, Dr Akbar points out that most of the "Islamic" laws which have been implemented since General Zia came to power were prepared by the Council of Islamic Ideology in Bhutto's time—although, he adds, they have been implemented with a more pronounced stress on fundamentalism". It is generally agreed that, for better or worse, General Zia is unlike his predecessors in having "a real

The success of an Islamic government must ultimately be judged by its ability to provide for the material needs of the people



General Zia, real commitment: Mr Shutt, Islamic rhetoric with a secular outlook.

personal commitment" to the application of Islam in Pakistan.

In the words of Dr Tenzil ur-Rahman, a lawyer who was recently appointed a High Court judge and is to be the new chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council, "from July 5, 1977, since General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq took over the Government in the country, he led the caravan of the *Ummah* (the Muslim community) to begin afresh its journey to achieve the goal of the enforcement of Shar'iah (Islamic law) in Pakistan in all spheres of the life of its people".

The main "achievements" of General Zia in this direction, quoted by Dr Tenzil ur-Rahman, are as follows:

1. He has set up five "Shar'iat Benches"—one for each High Court and an Appellate Bench at the Supreme Court—with power to strike down existing and future laws as null and void if they are "repugnant to the injunctions of Islam".

2. He has amended the penal code to impose the traditional Islamic punishments for theft (amputation of the right hand, or in the case of armed robbery the right hand and left foot), adultery (100 stripes for

unmarried persons, death by stoning for married ones), false accusations of adultery (80 stripes) and alcoholic drinking (80 stripes).

3. He has ordered the levy of Zakat (the Islamic wealth tax of 2½ per cent per annum) and 'Ushr (the equivalent tax on agricultural produce).

4. He has set up a Shar'iat Faculty and a permanent Law Commission.

Further reforms are under discussion, including notably the introduction of interest-free banking, with interest being replaced by a share of profit and loss in the case of productive investments, and by "service charges" in the case of non-productive loans, including mortgages.

All this may sound impressive, but on closer inspection it turns out that not a great deal has so far changed in practice.

The Shar'iat Benches have indeed been set up; but their members have been drawn from within the existing judiciary; in other words they have legal training and qualifications of the British type. The legal establishment has successfully resisted pressure for the Benches to be staffed by *qadis* trained only in Islamic law.

Moreover, the judgments and sentences of the Benches are subject to appeal to the Supreme Court. And the judges insist on regarding the prescribed Islamic penalties as a maximum, to be applied only in cases where all the rules of evidence laid down by the Koran and the Sunnah are rigorously fulfilled.

For instance, for adultery there must be four male adult Muslim witnesses to the act itself; for theft, two male adult witnesses. Even if 100 women were to witness a theft, the Islamic penalty would not be mandatory.

The judge can then exercise his discretion (ta'zir). The Pakistani judges do so by sentencing in accordance with the British penal system in cases where a crime is proved according to British rules of evidence but not according to Islamic rules.

The result is that so far sentences such as amputation have been passed in only one or two cases, and these have yet to be confirmed by the Supreme Court. (There have of course been numerous flaggings, but in fact there is nothing Islamic about these: they have been ordered under martial law, which

is carried out by the Benches.

Computer models of the climate are beginning to provide some clues about the mechanics at work in blocking. They suggest that blocks are sustained by the very nature of the circulation they generate.

What we do not know is the precise physical cause of blocking highs. They come and go in an unpredictable manner. Their preferred position suggests that they are a consequence of the atmospheric circulation in the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere. This view is supported by the fact that they are much less common in the mid-latitudes of the southern

Pacific. Normally they persist for about two weeks but can last much longer. These blocks cause a meandering circulation pattern which often produces alternate regions of abnormally hot and cold weather.

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hemisphere, which are largely covered by oceans.

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THE HAUGHEY DIMENSION

The Irish are placing a very high significance on today's meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey.

Mr Haughey was able to oust Mr Lynch from the office of prime minister last year chiefly because Fianna Fail TDs in sufficient number had come to regard Mr Lynch as too soft or acquiescent in the face of Ulster separatism. Mr Haughey, a man to put republican muscle into the Irish government's Northern policy, was the man for them.

He at once declared that his government would put the Northern question in the forefront of its priorities. He has said that the opportunity to rescue a disintegrating society in Northern Ireland is slipping by; that a conclusive settlement can no longer be delayed; that internal arrangements for the government of the province within the United Kingdom, however important, are not central to progress towards a settlement; that only clear movement towards Irish unity will suffice; and that the impetus must come from a declaration by the British government of its interest in encouraging the unity of Ireland by agreement and in peace.

Now the moment has come for Mr Haughey to discover for himself, and acquaint his countrymen, whether that approach is going to lead him anywhere. He is looking to Mrs Thatcher for some indication that she is prepared to give the unionists of Ulster a shove in the required direction.

Irish hopes of this meeting are nourished by a reading of Mrs Thatcher's political character as embodying Mr Haughey's conservative aim, radical in execution. Her manoeuvre of disengagement from Rhodesia makes in mouths water. A sharp reversal of position under internal pressure: a banging together of heads; deafness to calls founded on wartimeistics; a brilliantly executed frontal endorsement and offer of authority on the spot; a quick dash to a safe distance; is it not a blueprint for reunification of Britain's vestigial responsibilities in Ireland? Nothing in slower motion perhaps, but something along the lines. Financially and militarily, if not diplomatically, the implication of Ulster places a greater strain on the resources of the United Kingdom than Rhodesia did.

A Savagery

Mr Haughey is likely to be disappointed in the meeting but not offended. He will be disappointed by because the British government has no business to bully or coax the people of Northern Ireland into another under another sovereignty if there is a large and settled entity there with no desire to do that road; when that entity includes (on the evidence of opinion polls) a sizable proportion of the Roman Catholic community; and when the majority has remained undented ten years of savagery by the IRA. He will be disappointed because any indication that London was preparing to force a hand of Ulster unionists in

CARTERISM AT NUMBER TEN

It is a common pastime these days in European political circles to deplore the quality of American political leadership. America, it is often said, is unable to pursue a coherent foreign policy because of the indecisiveness of President Carter, his sensitivity to domestic political criticism and the difficulty he has in securing congressional approval for his decisions. The result is that America's allies feel let down or at least confused and do not know where they stand. They agree to support a policy, often reluctantly, only to find that it has been abruptly abandoned without their being consulted.

Now our own Government, in the matter of sanctions against Iran, has behaved in just that way. Mrs Thatcher has the reputation of being a strong and decisive prime minister. In this matter she has signally failed to deserve that reputation; both our American allies and more especially our European partners have every right to feel exasperated with us.

The problem originates with the draft resolution which was vetoed by the Soviet Union in the United Nations Security Council on January 13. That resolution would have banned all exports to Iran except food and medicine, making no distinction between deliveries arising from existing contracts and those that were the subject of new contracts. Had the resolution been passed its implementation

the cardinal matter of allegiance would deeply unsettle the province, make far more difficult the task of governing it, and precipitate preparations for civil war.

That is professedly disbelieved in Dublin. There it is supposed that if London gently intimates to the Protestants of Ulster that the game is up, that everybody's interest would be best served by the unionists' contemplating a future without the union, Ulstermen, being of a practical disposition, would set about making the best of it. For once Englishmen see more clearly into Irish history, having the advantage of closer acquaintance this century with Ulster's political temper than Dublin has had. There is nothing in that history to promote a belief that Ulster Protestants would go quietly if deserved.

Right analysis

Yet, while not obliging Mr Haughey, Mrs Thatcher will be anxious not to rebuff him. She needs a fair wind from Dublin for her government's forthcoming proposals for a provincial Ulster assembly and executive.

She needs to foster the recently improved cooperation between the security forces both sides of the Irish border, and to encourage Mr Haughey in his tough measures against IRA activity within the Republic. She needs to minimize the nuisance an aggrieved Irish government can make of itself over Britain's foreign relations in general, and with Washington and the EEC in particular.

Moreover, there has always been something transitional about the administrative province of Northern Ireland. The 1920 Government of Ireland Act which established it looked forward to the possibility of coalescence between North and South and provided means for effecting it. Great Britain has never gone rock hard on its union with Northern Ireland. Had it done so the province would long ago have been fully integrated into the administrative system for the rest of the kingdom. Recently Westminster has chosen to ignore the axiom that a society which exhibits conflicting allegiances of powerful historical and cultural force can have no assured stability until one prevails indisputably over the other—and by ignoring that axiom it has denied itself the best political strategy for defeating republican violence, which is to deprive it of all hope of success.

At this point the Dublin analysis is right. Britain no longer perceives a strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland, is not bound by sentiment, does not possess the will, sufficient in all three cases for a union with Northern Ireland that is free of all reservation.

For these reasons Mrs Thatcher will not wish to exclude the future possibility of Irish unity. But her position cannot be other than was written down at Sunningdale in 1973:

The present status of Northern Ireland is that it is part of the United Kingdom. If in the future the majority of the people of Northern Ireland should indicate a wish to become part of a united

would have been mandatory for all member states.

When the foreign ministers of the Nine decided, on April 22, to impose sanctions "in accordance with" that resolution, they were therefore implicitly committing themselves to act against exports under existing contracts as well as under new ones. It was recognized, however, that in the absence of a mandatory United Nations resolution the element of retroactivity involved in that decision would expose some member governments to difficulties of a legal order. It was decided to seek ways of overcoming at least limiting these difficulties and to review the position at the next meeting on May 17.

Ministers were therefore aware, or if they were not they should have been, that the meeting in Naples last weekend was likely to produce a decision affecting at least some existing contracts for the supply of goods to Iran. They certainly did not tell Parliament that this would not happen. On the other hand they did not go out of their way to tell Parliament that it would. They could certainly have done more than they did to clear up the confusion arising from the Iran (Temporary Powers) Act which was passed last week. This Act empowers the Government to make Orders in Council about contracts connected with Iran, but specifically excludes any contract made before the date when the Order is made. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of

anecdote has been told. Hansard transcribers are left with the possibility of being required to work 20-hour days, from which they have no legal protection, owing to the privilege which exempts the staff at the House of Commons from the employment legislation passed by that institution and presumably intended to prevent the exploitation of the rest of the work force.

A dubious privilege

From Miss J. J. Coudrey
Sir, Your Diary writer (May 15) may feel that "journalistic honour has been satisfied" by the compliments paid to Hansard staff by Patrick Jenkins and other members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Social Security Committee (No. 2) Bill. However, after the

Ireland, the British Government would support that wish. The principle of self-determination is applicable to Northern Ireland without qualification. It is not for Mrs Thatcher to push or nudge Ulster unionists southwards. It is for Mr Haughey to attract them thither if he can. He has come to London, it is thought, primed to discuss such ideas as federation, dual citizenship, joint guarantees. He should address himself in the first place to Belfast and seek a response there. If he prosters, that will be the time for British and Irish ministers to look into such topics together.

The Republic of Ireland has been changing rapidly in ways that might be expected to interest Ulstermen north of the border. It is exhibiting an entrepreneurial flair. It has acquired expertise in professions ancillary to business (previously more characteristic of Belfast) such as management consultancy, commercial law, accountancy, of which Mr Haughey is himself an ornament. Its economy has been growing at a much faster rate than that of Northern Ireland or the United Kingdom as a whole. It is more "European" in sentiment than England is, and more adept at exploiting the Community to its own advantage. The horizons of its governing, business and professional classes are increasingly continental and global, now that the country has found its feet in the European Community and at the United Nations.

Yet Irish governments have made no systematic attempt to explain to Ulstermen in the light of these trends what precisely they envisage in their aspiration to Irish unity, what advantages might await Ulster, what financial, civil and religious guarantees might be available, what constitutional and legislative changes Dublin for its part would make. Modern Ireland (South) has a lot more to offer Ulstermen than the Ireland of Arthur Griffiths or de Valera had. But it is for Irish nationalists to convince them of the advantages of making common cause, not for the British government.

The only way

There is only one route to the unification of Ireland by agreement, and it does not start from a declaration by the British government that that is what it intends to work for. It lies through the further development of the economy of the Republic: the adaptation of its institutions and social legislation to conform to the wider outlook of its educated citizens; the cultivation of a more instructed and sympathetic understanding of the Irish tradition of Ulster Protestantism; the abandonment of all equivocation concerning the use of violence to achieve unity and the resolute suppression of its manifestations; and a patient programme of action to win over the minds of unionists. At that point a British government will be found ready enough to facilitate transfer of sovereignty. That is the only route to unification by agreement. No other kind, even if possible, is worth having.

Alternatives to prison

From Mr Nicholas Hinton

Sir, The Home Secretary, in his statement (Report, May 1) on the recommendations of the May committee (the inquiry into the United Kingdom prison services), pledged the Government's support for alternatives to imprisonment. He stressed the increasing part that the outside community must play, whether through statutory or voluntary agencies.

I welcome this and other responses by the Home Secretary to some of the recommendations of the May committee. I serve on it. I have no doubt that voluntary organizations in particular can play a significantly increased part in developing many more alternatives. But little or no progress will be made unless money is made available.

Experience in other fields, such as job creation for the unemployed or housing associations, shows that, given resources, the community through voluntary organizations can add to the facilities available on a large scale. A similar and positive approach towards the voluntary sector needs to be taken by the Government in creating alternatives to imprisonment. Of course, this means additional expenditure in the short term, but it is an investment worth making now in order to reduce the use of prison, the most expensive facility in the longer term.

To that extent it is understandable that MPs felt they had been misled, and the Government was certainly open to criticism for the way it had handled the affair. But it had not positively misled them. It could and should have defended itself and the decision taken, since it was a decision reached, not without difficulty, by nine governments in close and elaborate consultation, with the British Government insisting particularly that the Nine must act together. It might perhaps have been defeated. If so the defeat would have been honourable, and not tragic—since the number of contracts involved is small and the importance of the sanctions is admitted to be largely symbolic in any case.

But to tear up a Community decision without even putting it to vote was undignified and lamentable.

May I add that I believe that the above anomalous state of affairs is nobody's fault in particular: parliamentary privilege just grew (a long time ago) and has not yet atrophied with "progress".

Yours sincerely,
JULIE J. COWDREY,
53 Dyne Road, NW6.

May 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Retaining Britain's nuclear capability

From Mr S. D. Bailey

Sir, Lord Greenhill (May 16) is right to stress the danger that nuclear weapons will be acquired by irrational authoritarian regimes. There is also the risk that such weapons might fall into the hands of terrorists or criminals. In addition to the six or seven states which make their own nuclear arms, there are probably some 25 countries which possess the technical capability to make nuclear explosive devices, even sophisticated delivery systems are beyond all but a few.

This underlines the importance of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty which will open in Geneva in August, and some of the near-nuclear states will doubtless deploy precisely those arguments for strategic nuclear independence which have been aired in your columns by distinguished former officers and diplomats. The predicament for the United Kingdom will be to make a convincing case against proliferation which does not at the same time undermine our case for Polaris and a successor system.

A conference to review the nuclear non-proliferation treaty will open in Geneva in August, and some of the near-nuclear states will doubtless deploy precisely those arguments for strategic nuclear independence which have been aired in your columns by distinguished former officers and diplomats. The predicament for the United Kingdom will be to make a convincing case against proliferation which does not at the same time undermine our case for Polaris and a successor system.

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY D. BAILEY,
19 Deansway,
East Finchley, N2.

Status of the midwife

From Mr Albert Davis

Sir, Mrs Kitzinger (May 13) firmly believes that "midwives matter". Of course they do: without their devoted nursing care and specialized expertise the maternity services would break down. But to increase their already fully extended capabilities by a reversal to home confinements (as Mrs Kitzinger advocates) is both unfair to the midwife and potentially harmful to her patients. Under the best conditions delivery at home is a makeshift compromise between patient concern and medical convenience: in the worst it can be a dangerous shambles.

Midwifery is too important to be left exclusively to midwives. The hazards of delivery are too many and too serious to subject both patient and midwife to the risks inherent in the obvious lack of medical facilities in the home.

Mrs Kitzinger believes that "for most mothers and babies the midwives' essential skills of encouraging the natural progress of labour are more important than skills in surgery and biomechanics", and she advocates an extension of home deliveries to allow of the free exercise of these skills. Now, most hospital deliveries are perfectly normal, and are carried through exclusively by midwives using the method Mrs Kitzinger advocates. But some babies get stuck and have to be extracted: others are born asphyxiated and must be resuscitated. Haemorrhage may occur and must be controlled, and labour may be extensive and require repair. All these are common and potentially serious complications, requiring urgent and expert attention well beyond the capacity of the most experienced midwife, and it is unfair and unwise to ask her to attempt to cope with such emergencies in home surroundings. Mrs Kitzinger's advocacy of an increase in home confinements is both misguided and retrograde. A lifetime in obstetrics convinces me that no baby should be born at home unless circumstances prevent hospital waiting.

ALBERT DAVIS, FRCOG,
33 Harley Street, W1.

Health Service change

From Charles Morrison, MP for Devizes (Conservative)

Sir, Just as you are right once again to draw attention to the unpopularity of the 1974 reorganization of the Health Service (Leader, April 30), so you are correct in expressing scepticism about current plans for further reorganization. The main objectives of the Government's consultative document, "Patients First", are to strengthen management and simplify the structure of the service. Thereby it is intended to make savings in bureaucracy and costs, releasing money for the benefit of patients. These objectives are admirable, but the suggested methods of achieving them are of extremely doubtful validity.

The main government proposal is to abolish area health authorities and replace them with district health authorities. In effect this will mean that the existing 90 area health authorities will be replaced by roughly 180 district health authorities. If that is not a recipe for bureaucracy, it is difficult to imagine what is. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that county councils are closely linked with the health service by reason of their responsibility for personal social services often with have to deal with two, three or more district health authorities instead of one area health authority. That is bound to add to their costs.

Surely it would be more sensible to link community health councils more closely with area health authorities, thus providing better "grass root" representation at area level and cut out the existing district management structure.

I was surprised to oppose the abolition of regional health authorities. Then, these would create real savings. Although the Department of Health and Social Security may not be geared at present to deal directly with area health authorities, there is no reason why it should not become so, just as the Department of Education and Science deals directly with local education authorities.

A health service structure based on the department, area health authorities, and stronger management arrangements at local level would save money and provide a better service to patients. What "Patients First" proposes will not achieve its stated objectives, but luckily it is only a consultative document and therefore the Government still has time for further thoughts.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MORRISON,
House of Commons, SW1.

Disclosure of sources

From Mr Raymond Weeks

Sir, The Court of Appeal's decision (see BSC v Granada Television, Law Report, May 8), though perverse, is not necessarily, contrary to your view, a disservice to the cause of press freedom" (leading article, May 8).

The Court acknowledges the right of the media to a limited privilege not to have to disclose its sources—provided it acts responsibly. And Lord Denning recognizes that such responsibility may even be exercised by publication itself: "... if it got hold of a trustworthy informant who gave information of which the public ought to know, then even though it originated in a newspaper, the newspaper may well be held to act with due sense of responsibility in publishing it and should not be compelled to divulge its source." This may actually be an advance on the pre-existing law.

Nevertheless, the Court ordered disclosure of the informant's identity not, it seems, because of what Granada did, but because of the manner in which it did it. All three judges rap the knuckles of the television company for its bad form: it left it too late before informing the Chairman of BSC of the secret documents. It failed to show him the script before he was interviewed; the interview itself was improperly conducted; the documents were mutilated in order to protect the informant's identity.

The approach adopted by the Master of the Rolls differs, in certain respects, from those of the other members of the Court, but in all the judgments there lurks the suspicion of the disapproving eye. Lord Denning declared: "They behaved so badly that they have forfeited the protection which the law normally gave to newspapers and broadcasters. That protection was given only on condition that they did not abuse their power."

This is, as you rightly perceive, a singularly unsatisfactory basis upon which to adjudicate press freedom. Yet there is an explicit exception to that rule: such "exceptional circumstances" however, must relate to what is disclosed, not to the manner of its disclosure.

Without such recognition those who have something to tell us will be even more reluctant to say what we have a right to hear...

Yours etc,
RAYMOND WEEKS,
Senior Lecturer in Law,
Oxford Polytechnic,
Headington, Oxford.

Such a tasty dish

From Sir Peter Tennant

Sir, Please pottage nine days old must be pea soup which gradually solidifies the longer you keep it. It is not exactly a vegetarian dish since it is best when combined with salt pork and bacon. Old pea soup is much the same (if not sour) as fresh pea soup, which consists of soaked dried peas cooked together in a cloth beside the salt pork, mixed with a seasoning of mint, sugar and pepper. After about two hours the pork and the pudding are ready.

The pudding, the size of a small football, is eaten hot with the pork and for some reason must be split open with two forks and never cut

Civil Service pay and comparability

From Mr C. A. Griggs

Sir, The air is already cloudy with appeals and admonitions that we should save water and all the signs are present that we are again entering that season when the water authorities, having failed in their duty to the consumer, attempt to blackmail us to cover up their shortcomings and, having done that, charge us for our efforts.

The system is a long way from the old trade union position that the state should be a model employer. But some form of comparability is basic for Civil Service pay bargaining and the system we have is sophisticated and fairly precise. Nobody has yet, external to internal critics alike, managed to come up with sensible alternatives and your editorial contributes nothing.

The Civil Service, paraphrasing Bagehot, is peculiarly vulnerable to mass ignorance, mass excitement and mass resentment. Out of an old faith, one hopes—distanced from The Times.

W. L. KENDALL,
Secretary General,
Council of Civil Service Unions,
19 Rochester Row, SW1.

Soaking' those who save water

From Mr C. A. Griggs

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Norway

Over-optimism yields to sobriety

nations would envy prospects for the world economy were gloomy. This is crucial to Norway, which has about half of its economic natural resources, and activity involved in considerable world trade. The policy of using oil, one would maintain full employment by the tail. As it is, external insurances and internal factors, the Norwegians found themselves in considerable difficulty. In past two years, they partly pulled themselves out of the hole they in. The question now is whether they can get far out.

Understand what is going in Norway, one goes back to 1974. The use in oil prices at that created an atmosphere of over-optimism among Norwegians, and they went spending spree.

Government, concerned with world recession, decided to conduct a cyclical policy, and to borrow abroad.

Loans were used to oil activity in the Sea, bail out an overextended shipping industry, and subsidize firms that are in trouble. The public into the spirit and importing as never

day was soon heavily in oil—\$4,400m kroner (DM) at the end of Even worse, as a of increased labour Norway found that its market position in the market place had deteriorated.

In 1977, with the Labour Government to take counter-measures, the Government failed to work, the oil imports were given priority to paying off foreign debts. The OECD estimates prove correct. Norway will manage to clear off only a quarter of half of them by 1985.

After hearing so long, however, about the benefits of oil, many people want to see them in the concrete form of increased wages and tax reductions. This was reflected in the recent wage negotiations between the labour and employer federations. A mediated agreement was finally reached when the Government sweetened the offer with 1,400m kroner (\$124m) in tax reductions and child subsidies. The settlement is inflationary, but the Government is still hoping to keep Norway's inflation level (which is mounting) below that of the rest of the OECD. Whether the combination of increasing prices on imports and domestic pressures will permit this remains to be seen.

In addition to the questions of what to do about the foreign debts and wages, the Government is confronted with some rather negative factors. The programme worked, in the short run, on held in 1979 and the economic position improved. Nevertheless, the debt continued to rise. By the end of 1979 more than 105,000m (29,400m). Roughly quarters of this was in state sector, with a of that represented

1980 opened, Norway itself in an enviable situation: modest growth, apparent employment, a relatively low rate of inflation, fairly good competition. It also has all the, the value of which during 1979.

Id, however, negative factors. The

about industry. These in do about the aluminium and ferro-alloy industries, which consume so much energy.

The Government proposes to increase the cost of energy to these industries. Its efforts to rationalize industry are, however, inhibited by its unbending determination to maintain full employment. Not only full employment but a distinct policy which largely perpetuates the population pattern.

According to a recent official report, by the end of this decade Norway could be getting about a quarter of its gross national product from oil. This is a lot, particularly when one considers the risks in the North Sea. Furthermore, in a desire to diversify the economy, the Government has proposed to take on an increasing share of the risk.

It is not yet entirely clear what impact recent events in the North Sea will have on all this. Certainly, the bubble of over-optimism has been punctured. Government officials returned from their Easter holidays in the mountains in a sober mood. Mr Odvar Nordli, the Prime Minister, set the tone by declaring that Norway must afford to pay as a high a price to human lives for its oil venture. Norway is, however, already heavily dependent on the oil income, and the pressures to move forward—eaten at a somewhat reduced pace are strong.

A recent report of the Central Bureau of Statistics concluded that "with a weak economic trend abroad, a high level of demand, a tight labour market and continued weak competitive position for manufacturing industry, the problems which characterized the Norwegian economy in the middle of the 1970s may easily re-emerge". Furthermore, "it will be difficult to enjoy the fruits of the profitable oil activities without having an adverse effect on manufacturing industry's competitive position".

John Ausland

Worry over future of economy

Although oil has been of great benefit to the Norwegian economy, Norwegians must give more thought to how dependent they should become on oil. Mr Knut Getz Wold, Governor of the Bank of Norway, expressed this view in a recent interview with John Ausland on the prospects for the Norwegian economy. The interview took place not long after a hotel platform overturned in the North Sea, with the loss of 123 lives. This event has precipitated a debate in Norway on the future of the oil venture.

In view of the general state of the world economy, Mr Getz Wold is concerned about the future of the Norwegian economy. If Norway is to solve its economic problems, he says it will have to follow a prudent course. This includes, above all, maintaining Norway's competitive position in the world economy and using the oil income to pay off the large foreign debts which Norway has acquired in recent years.

In your recent annual address, you said that "the dismal prospects for 1980 and the great uncertainty about the trend in the world economy in the coming years entail great challenges for the Norwegian economy". Could you elaborate on that?

All the forecasts, such as the OECD and the IMF, predict either a zero or small rate of growth for the industrial world. The Norwegian economy depends on world market conditions, since nearly half our income comes from world trade. The sensitivity of our economy varies from sector to sector, but oil has helped us to get through these years as well as we have.

What do you see as the main problems confronting the Norwegian economy?

Our main problem is to maintain the improvement in Norway's competitive position which took place during the past two years, but which has only partially compensated for the deterioration during the preceding years.

Another problem is to resist the pressures on the Government to spend the oil income. As a result of the of investments and the Government's counter-cyclical policy, there is a large foreign debt hanging over Norway. The problem is, will he be to pay this off?

A recent government report

China angles for favour of fisherfolk

There are new sagas being played out and written in Iceland as the Chinese set out to woo the islanders away from the influence of the Soviet Union.

For many years the extreme left-wing socialists have had a major role in politics, but at the end of 1979 the communist-dominated coalition government collapsed. After the election in December it took several weeks and three attempts to form a new government. Finally, in February, Mr Gunnar Thoroddsen, deputy chairman of the Independence Party, emerged after much political manoeuvring as the new Prime Minister and leader of a now majority Cabinet.

The influential socialist left, which forms the People's Alliance, was held by many to be responsible for the continuing price rises during its six-year term of office. There has always been a high rate of inflation, but since the early 1970s it has risen steeply each year, reaching 60 per cent in 1979. Some economists on the island believe it may reach 100 per cent by the end of this year.

As Mr Jonas H. Haralz, general manager of Landsbanki Islands (the National Bank of Iceland) put it: "We have gone from creeping inflation to Latin inflation". Between the 1950s and the 1970s inflation had been held at less than 10 per cent, but that was still two or three times the OECD average. "We were on a par with countries like Finland, Australia and New Zealand", Mr Haralz said. He added that the communists could not take the entire blame for the sudden rise of inflation.

"We are prime producers", he says. "Like all prime producers we have a commitment to full employment and this has contributed to the problem. "We had too many goals, too much expansion, and,

could not control the monetary system and economic expansion." He said the country had suffered from a fixed exchange rate which had subsidized exports for too long. But now a floating rate had been introduced which meant easier borrowing on the Euromarkets.

Iceland relies heavily on fishing and has one of the most modern and efficient fleets in the world. Catches in 1979 reached a record 1,632,000 tonnes compared to 1,548,000 tonnes the previous year. Vigorous attempts have been made to diversify the economy by developing aluminium smelting and ferro-silicon production.

Exports rose last year by 12 per cent to \$750m. There was an overall balance of trade surplus of \$23.5m, slightly down on the 1978 figures. The acute rise in the cost of oil imports—mostly bought on the Rotterdam spot market—at \$151m had a major effect on all sectors.

Gross national product grew in real terms by 0.7 per cent (2 per cent per capita)—a good deal less than the forecast of 3 per cent. This was less than the 4.2 per cent for 1978 and 6 per cent for 1977.

According to the Central Bank, wages and salaries rose by an average of 13 per cent but, because of the indexation system employed, it was a real increase of only 3 per cent. Unemployment remained at a negligible 0.5 per cent. The high cost of oil, much of which comes from the Soviet Union, is a major consideration in the current round of negotiations and new supplies are being sought in the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. Wages are normally agreed on a quarterly indexed-linked basis.

The United States is Iceland's biggest single trading partner, taking 51,000m kronur worth of exports last year. The total to all EEC countries was 56,000m kronur with Britain taking the largest share at 29,000m kronur. The United States also contributed at 15,000m kronur to the island's economy for the use of the

United States also contributed at 15,000m kronur to the island's economy for the use of the

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Bankers and economists give their views on how their countries will face the problems of the 1980s

'Revaluation not difficult'

With the impressive turnaround of the economy over the past 18 months, Finland has taken on the characteristics of an unusual Nordic economic workshop. Its extraordinary 7.55 per cent growth rate in 1979 is matched only at the other end of the scale by the record 60 per cent inflation of its Nordic partner, Iceland, both figures being respectively the highest of any OECD country.

Finland has been very unusual in using revaluation as a major counter to overheating the economy, the present Government's main preoccupation. Mr Mauno Koivisto, the former Director of the Bank of Finland, and one of the country's most popular prime ministers, after a year of office, has succeeded in reaping the fruits of economic measures instituted after the latent effects of the 1974 energy crisis reached Finland. His fellow workshop director is Mr Ahti Karjalainen, now acting Governor of the Bank of Finland, and a former prime minister and foreign minister. He is also one of the most experienced politicians in dealing with Soviet affairs.

Mr Karjalainen has succeeded, where perhaps Mr Koivisto had failed when he was Governor of the Bank, in persuading the Government to accept the use of revaluation as a means of curbing inflation and as a trade-off against unrealistic wage demands. Finland has already taken the unprecedented step of revaluing twice in six months.

Just before the last revaluation of 2 per cent in March, Mr Karjalainen explained his attitude to revaluation as a means of curbing inflation and as a trade-off against unrealistic wage demands. Finland has already taken the unprecedented step of revaluing twice in six months.



our exchange rates is not a problem. The bank directors set alter the rate whenever they like provided they stay within the limits".

When the Finmark was revalued by 1.3 per cent at the end of last September the range of fluctuations for the currency index was increased from 4.5 per cent to 6 per cent. This allows the bank greater scope for changing the value of the Finmark according to the currency index on which the exchange value of the Finmark is based. At the same time discount rates were raised. Both measures were a reflection of the Government's toughening attitudes towards inflation.

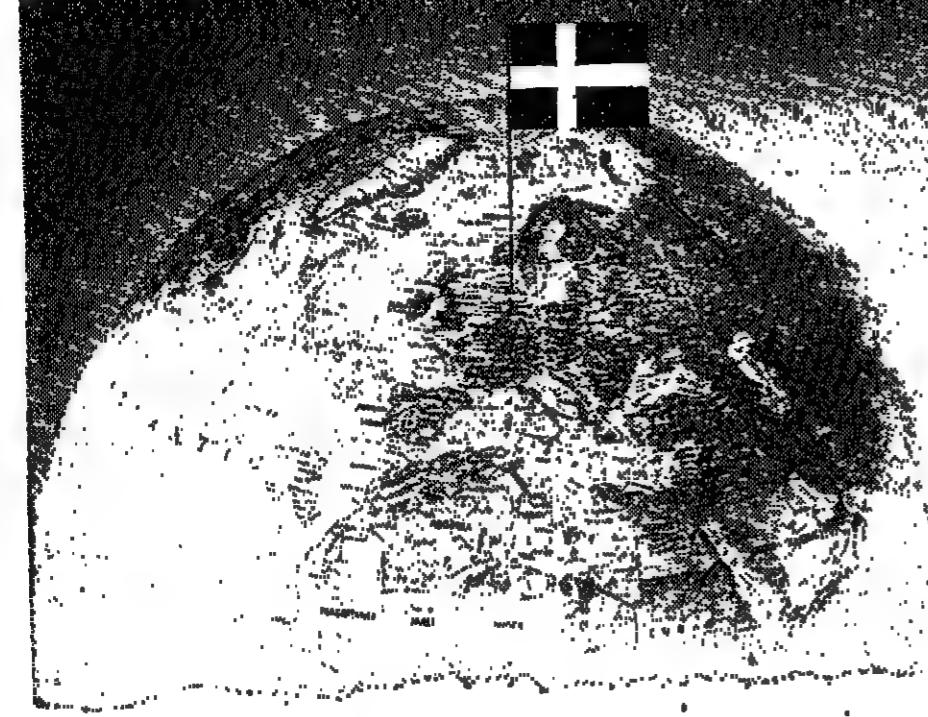
Mr Karjalainen has been very hawkish in his approach to the labour unions' latest round of negotiations for wage increases. Although these have been agreed at a comparatively modest level of 9 to 10 per cent in two stages, he considers they are still too high.

"It will mean greater inflation this year. Wage settlements should be less", he said.

"The unions speak about revaluation and changes in

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'Sweden near disaster'

The Swedish economy seems bent upon disaster because of the ever-expanding public sector and growing foreign indebtedness, says Mr Erik Ehn, president of Södertäljebanken, Sweden's largest provincial bank.

With some 55 offices and deposits of nearly 7,000m kronor, Södertäljebanken looks after the destinies of businesses in the vast areas of northern Sweden.

For nearly 150 years, northern Sweden has provided basic industries such as forestry, mining, steel and hydroelectric power. And, as Mr Ehn sees it, Sweden's decline in recent years as middle rank industrial power is not related to this intrinsic wealth but to public income policies.

Sweden's problems have not started up here, because in northern Sweden there have been a very strong industrial sector", he said. "The forest industry, for example, particularly shipbuilding and engineering, and exports to both the West and the East were doing well.

But he predicted difficulties ahead. External factors, the invasion of Afghanistan, the Iranian situation, tended to have a greater effect on a smaller economy like that of Finland. He thought that relations between the United States and the Soviet Union looked very bad.

"The trouble is that Moscow does not understand the United States and Washington does not understand the Soviet Union. It is difficult to say where the fault is, but they do not understand each other and something is very wrong."

The Soviet Union is vitally important to Finland as a trading partner and a new five-year trade agreement has recently been concluded.

Michael Frenchman

changes in the marginal and overall taxes, but it is politically impossible to make any major changes."

State pensions chew up sizable sums of public income, and pensioners are the only group in Sweden, who receive indexed increases, he said. "You can't really tackle that sort of thing. If someone gets up and says we can't afford it, the politicians accuse him of being mean."

On the other hand, Mr Ehn believed that public sector problems in Sweden would not warrant Thatcher-type solutions. Since the Second World War, policies of full employment and decent wages have become so widely accepted in Sweden that "it's not possible to be so reactionary in Sweden as she is. And furthermore, it would simply be impossible to abolish currency regulations. Unthinkable."

He favoured a programme espoused by certain conservative business leaders whereby some welfare measures presently carried out by public authorities would be turned over to private business. Sweden's big corporations provide one bright spot, Mr Ehn believes. "They are very strong and capable as long as the Swedish Government permits them to function freely. If you

look at SKF and L.M. Ericsson you will find they have had a successful decade when it comes to net profits."

He went on to say that Sweden has good business leaders. The Swedish business community is aware of the important effects of internationalization, and works hard to deepen it.

"We have some good base industries as well as an excellent transport network.

We have a good record

when it comes to introducing high technology in industry as well as marketing our products abroad.

"The banking community is robust and investing heavily abroad. Banks have expanded rapidly in the past decade, and there's no reason why this should not continue."

Mr Ehn's deepest sense of pessimism appears reserved for Sweden under the age of 25. "They might not be as interested in working hard and in having a high standard of living, in owning things. They might prefer another pattern of living."

"This new generation is deeply pessimistic about Sweden's future. I do share their sense of pessimism", said Mr Ehn.

Roger Choate



'Our inflation harmless'

In a country such as Iceland, which has an inflation rate of about 65 per cent—higher than in any other OECD country—one would expect to find the odd maverick economist and a somewhat radical approach to the problem. How, one asks, can a northern European country possibly survive with Latin American style inflation?

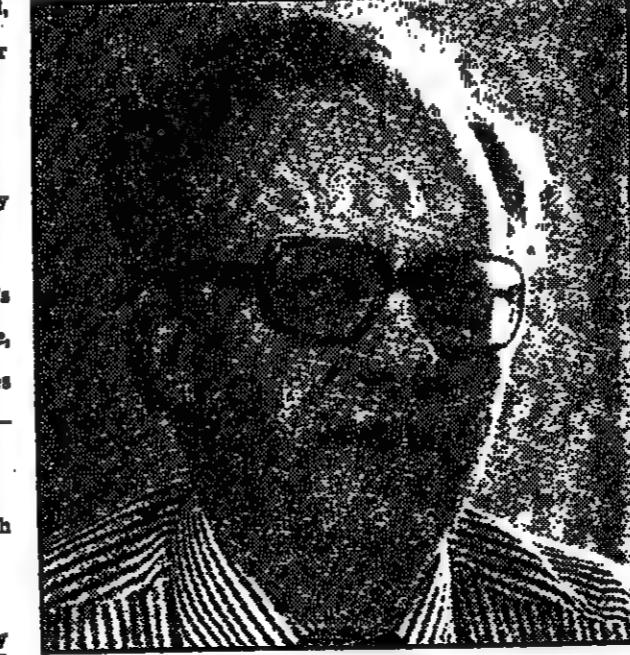
Bjarni Bragi Jónsson, economic adviser to Iceland's Central Bank, a King's College man from Cambridge, and obviously an earnest disciple of Lord Kaldor, does his best to answer the question. He reels off ideas—weighted average salary indexes, monetary corrections, resource taxation and equalization funds—almost non-stop with impish delight.

"We have turned away from attempting to cure inflation; instead we are trying to make our economy inflation-resistant—in fact, a most remarkable attempt", he explains proudly. The key to the solution is inflation or a regular means of applying adjustments to a wide range of financial systems—something that the Brazilians first came up with a decade or more ago, but which was never tried on any great scale in Western Europe.

"We are developing a credit system which will be index-linked right across the board", Mr Jónsson said. "This, coupled with adjustments to the rate of exchange of the Icelandic krona, means we can run inflation without any harm. We do not like it, but it is very invigorating..."

"We must close all the avenues to those who gain from inflation; we must teach the interest groups that they cannot gain."

A year ago the Althing, (Iceland's Parliament) passed the Economic Policy Act which contained major changes of interest rate policy in the banking system. By the end of this year all bank loans and deposits will be price-linked and three-month time deposits will be protected against the deterioration of value from inflation. The Central Bank is publishing a monthly index of credit terms to which the nominal value of credit and savings will be linked. A price compensation factor of interest rates is linked to any changes in price levels, and will be added to the nominal value of the loan or



become part of the minimum lending rate.

There has been a big increase in deposits since the system was instituted, which would otherwise have resulted in enormous losses to savers without the index-linking or value-linking. Mr Jónsson says. He believes in the flexibility of economic moderators rather than more rigid controls which he feels could lead to too much government intervention, leading to state control. This would perhaps have a detrimental effect on the profit motive of industry—in particular fishing, the mainstay of the island's economy.

Iceland's only resources are fishing and fishing brings

Mr Jónsson to his plan for

"resource taxation". This

was something which he had

already visualized at

Cambridge during the late

1950s.

"Fisheries are a classic

case of the 'rent' element",

he said, "diminishing

returns to scale".

He explained that there should not be quantitative restrictions on the amount of fish caught unless they were imposed by economic measures—hence taxation of the fishing resource.

Such a resource taxation principle was first applied

last year with the inception

of a Price Transfer Fund

which gave the Government

the power to impose taxes

on over-fished species and

to make remittances to those

catching under-fished

species. "We can thus

start to use the fund as an

economic incentive by

encouraging the transfer

of remittances as a premium", he said.

He felt that if Iceland

was going to maintain and

develop its fishing industry

it had to limit exploitation

and this could be done

through the introduction of

economic incentives such as

the resource taxation

method. "It comes

somewhere in between what

we want. Some operators

would perhaps call it

discrimination", Mr Jónsson

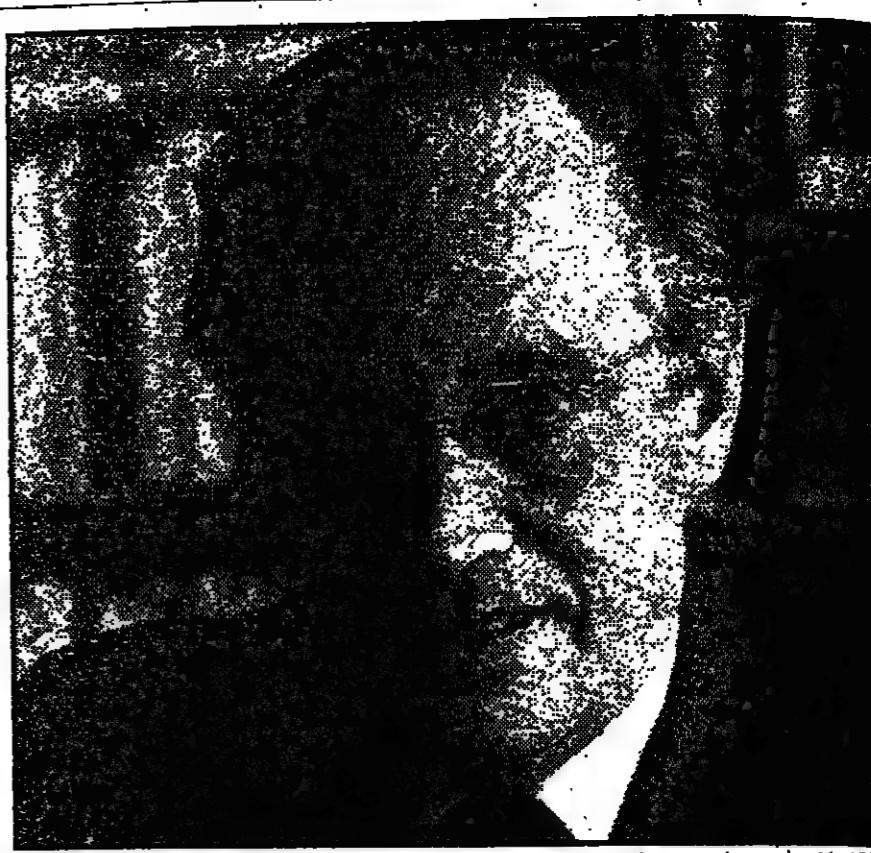
said, "but I call it

differentiation."

Marine resources are not

yet playing as great a role

in economic measures as



'Reduce consumption'

The economic climate in Denmark is gloomy. This was emphasized when the Governor of the National Bank, Mr Erik Hoffmeyer, wrote an article in the press in January which evoked much debate.

Mr Hoffmeyer pointed out that there were six steps towards the abyss of Denmark's economic ruin. When the first step had been taken Denmark had lost some of its freedom of movement in economic policy. The second step resulted in the country's losing more of its international respect and thus influence. At step three, which the country had begun to take, it was becoming increasingly difficult to borrow money. At step four, Mr Hoffmeyer said, the country would have to ask for assistance from international organizations, such as the EEC and the IMF. Should step five be reached the creditors would form a consortium which would lead to a claim for payment of the foreign loans and if the country took the sixth step the welfare state and the political structure would disintegrate.

Mr Hoffmeyer pointed out that Denmark had taken the third step but, he wrote, steps four, five and six had not yet been reached. They would be, however, if the huge deficit continued; if they did continue, it would be like walking towards an abyss of economic self-destruction.

Mr Hoffmeyer had hitherto expressed himself more cautiously, but this time the message was clear enough. The economic measures taken last December had not been strong enough.

Mr Hoffmeyer found himself in a position he had tried to avoid: to be openly in opposition to the Government's economic policy.

The Danes had been warned often enough—by Mr Knud Heinesen, the former Minister of Finance, among others—but this time

the deficit of the balance of trade can be improved by

more exports, and during 1979 there was a big increase in industrial exports. It is calculated they will continue to increase during 1980. Furthermore, imports should be reduced and can be done by lowering standard of living.

The deficit on the balance of payments is calculated to be about 16,000m kroner this year, and Denmark is obliged to increase its foreign exchange reserves. Mr Hoffmeyer said: "The country is not creditworthy one day and not the next. But the creditors have become more attentive. Denmark is a problem. Perhaps our creditworthiness has been weakened a bit during the year. There are still creditors willing to give us loans at the moment. The question is, how much and on what conditions want the creditors finance a deficit of 16,000 kroner in 1980 without Denmark having taken economic measures, think it might be difficult."

"This is why I have that it is necessary to take economic measures in to maintain and perhaps improve our creditworthiness."

A compromise was reached this month when the Government presented an economic package to Folketing. The Government had secured the support of the three centre parties—the Radicals, Centre Democrats and Christian Democrats. The package includes a rise VAT from 20.25 per cent to 22 per cent which will produce 3,100m kroner additional revenue. On petrol, oil products but not gas, electricity and charter flights will also be levied. These measures will raise an additional 1,000 kroner and the state and municipalities must also reduce their 1981 budget by 8,000m kroner.

Annelise Hor



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THE HAUGHEY DIMENSION

The Irish are placing a very high significance on today's meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey.

Mr Haughey was able to oust Mr Lynch from the office of prime minister last year chiefly because Fianna Fail TDs in sufficient number had come to regard Mr Lynch as too soft or acquiescent in the face of Ulster separatism. Mr Haughey, a man to put republican muscle into the Irish government's Northern policy, was the man for them.

He at once declared that his government would put the Northern question in the forefront of its priorities. He has said that the opportunity to rescue a disintegrating society in Northern Ireland is slipping by; that a conclusive settlement can no longer be delayed; that internal arrangements for the government of the province within the United Kingdom, however important, are not central to progress towards a settlement; that only clear movement towards Irish unity will suffice; and that the impetus must come from a declaration by the British government of its interest in encouraging the unity of Ireland by agreement and in peace.

Now the moment has come for Mr Haughey to discover for himself, and acquaint his countrymen, whether that approach is going to lead him anywhere. He is looking to Mrs Thatcher for some indication that she is prepared to give the unionists of Ulster a shove in the required direction.

Irish hopes of this meeting are nourished by a reading of Mrs Thatcher's political character as embodying Mr Haughey's conservative aim, radical in execution. Her manoeuvre of disengagement from Rhodesia makes in mouths water. A sharp reversal of position under internal pressure: a banging together of heads; deafness to pals founded on wartimeistics; a brilliantly executed frontal endorsement and offer of authority on the spot; a quick dash to a safe disqualification of Britain's vestigial responsibilities in Ireland; a thing in slower motion perhaps, but something along the lines. Financially and militarily, if not diplomatically, the implication of Ulster places a greater strain on the resources of the United Kingdom than Rhodesia did.

A Savagery

Mr Haughey is likely to be disappointed in the meeting but not affronted. He will be disappointed only because the British government has no business to bully or coax the people of Northern Ireland into another under another sovereignty. There is a large and settled entity there with no desire to roll that road; when that entity includes (on the evidence of opinion polls) a sizable proportion of the Roman Catholic community; and when the majority has remained undented ten years of savagery by the IRA. He will be disappointed because any indication that London was preparing to force a hand of Ulster unionists in

CARTERISM AT NUMBER TEN

It is a common pastime these days in European political circles to deplore the quality of American political leadership. America, it is often said, is unable to pursue a coherent foreign policy because of the indecisiveness of President Carter, his sensitivity to domestic political criticism and the difficulty he has in securing congressional approval for his decisions. The result is that America's allies feel let down or at least confused and do not know where they stand. They agree to support a policy, often reluctantly, only to find that it has been abruptly abandoned without their being consulted.

Now our own Government, in the matter of sanctions against Iran, has behaved in just that way. Mrs Thatcher has the reputation of being a strong and decisive prime minister. In this matter she has signally failed to deserve that reputation; both our American allies and more especially our European partners have every right to feel exasperated with us.

The problem originates with the draft resolution which was vetoed by the Soviet Union in the United Nations Security Council on January 13. That resolution would have banned all exports to Iran except food and medicine, making no distinction between deliveries arising from existing contracts and those that were the subject of new contracts. Had the resolution been passed its implementation

the cardinal matter of allegiance would deeply unsettle the province, make far more difficult the task of governing it, and precipitate preparations for civil war.

That is professedly disbelieved in Dublin. There it is supposed that if London gently intimates to the Protestants of Ulster that the game is up, that everybody's interest would be best served by the unionists' contemplating a future without the union, Ulstermen, being of a practical disposition, would set about making the best of it. For once Englishmen see more clearly into Irish history, having the advantage of closer acquaintance this century with Ulster's political temper than Dublin has had. There is nothing in that history to promote a belief that Ulster Protestants would go quietly if deserved.

Right analysis

Yet, while not obliging Mr Haughey, Mrs Thatcher will be anxious not to rebuff him. She needs a fair wind from Dublin for her government's forthcoming proposals for a provincial Ulster assembly and executive.

She needs to foster the recently improved cooperation between the security forces both sides of the Irish border, and to encourage Mr Haughey in his tough measures against IRA activity within the Republic. She needs to minimize the nuisance an aggrieved Irish government can make of itself over Britain's foreign relations in general, and with Washington and the EEC in particular.

Moreover, there has always been something transitional about the administrative province of Northern Ireland. The 1920 Government of Ireland Act which established it looked forward to the possibility of coalescence between North and South and provided means for effecting it. Great Britain has never gone rock hard on its union with Northern Ireland. Had it done so the province would long ago have been fully integrated into the administrative system for the rest of the kingdom. Recently Westminster has chosen to ignore the axiom that a society which exhibits conflicting allegiances of powerful historical and cultural force can have no assured stability until one prevails indisputably over the other—and by ignoring that axiom it has denied itself the best political strategy for defeating republican violence, which is to deprive it of all hope of success.

At this point the Dublin analysis is right. Britain no longer perceives a strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland, is not bound by sentiment, does not possess the will, sufficient in all three cases for a union with Northern Ireland that is free of all reservation.

For these reasons Mrs Thatcher will not wish to exclude the future possibility of Irish unity. But her position cannot be other than was written down at Sunningdale in 1973:

The present status of Northern Ireland is that it is part of the United Kingdom. If in the future the majority of the people of Northern Ireland should indicate a wish to become part of a united

would have been mandatory for all member states.

When the foreign ministers of the Nine decided, on April 22, to impose sanctions "in accordance with" that resolution, they were therefore implicitly committing themselves to act against exports under existing contracts as well as under new ones. It was recognized, however, that in the absence of a mandatory United Nations resolution the element of retroactivity involved in that decision would expose some member governments to difficulties of a legal order. It was decided to seek ways of overcoming at least limiting these difficulties and to review the position at the next meeting on May 17.

Ministers were therefore aware, or if they were not they should have been, that the meeting in Naples last weekend was likely to produce a decision affecting at least some existing contracts for the supply of goods to Iran. They certainly did not tell Parliament that this would not happen. On the other hand they did not go out of their way to tell Parliament that it would. They could certainly have done more than they did to clear up the confusion arising from the Iran (Temporary Powers) Act which was passed last week. This Act empowers the Government to make Orders in Council about contracts connected with Iran, but specifically excludes any contract made before the date when the Order is made. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of

anecdote has been told. Hansard transcribers are left with the possibility of being required to work 20-hour days, from which they have no legal protection, owing to the privilege which exempts the staff at the House of Commons from the employment legislation passed by that institution and presumably intended to prevent the exploitation of the rest of the work force.

A dubious privilege

From Miss J. J. Coudrey
Sir, Your Diary writer (May 15) may feel that "journalistic honour has been satisfied" by the compliments paid to Hansard staff by Patrick Jenkins and other members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Social Security Committee (No. 2) Bill. However, after the

Ireland, the British Government would support that wish. The principle of self-determination is applicable to Northern Ireland without qualification. It is not for Mrs Thatcher to push or nudge Ulster unionists southwards. It is for Mr Haughey to attract them thither if he can. He has come to London, it is thought, primed to discuss such ideas as federation, dual citizenship, joint guarantees. He should address himself in the first place to Belfast and seek a response there. If he prosters, that will be the time for British and Irish ministers to look into such topics together.

The Republic of Ireland has been changing rapidly in ways that might be expected to interest Ulstermen north of the border. It is exhibiting an entrepreneurial flair. It has acquired expertise in professions ancillary to business (previously more characteristic of Belfast) such as management consultancy, commercial law, accountancy, of which Mr Haughey is himself an ornament. Its economy has been growing at a much faster rate than that of Northern Ireland or the United Kingdom as a whole. It is more "European" in sentiment than England is, and more adept at exploiting the Community to its own advantage. The horizons of its governing, business and professional classes are increasingly continental and global, now that the country has found its feet in the European Community and at the United Nations.

Yet Irish governments have made no systematic attempt to explain to Ulstermen in the light of these trends what precisely they envisage in their aspiration to Irish unity, what advantages might await Ulster, what financial, civil and religious guarantees might be available, what constitutional and legislative changes Dublin for its part would make. Modern Ireland (South) has a lot more to offer Ulstermen than the Ireland of Arthur Griffiths or de Valera had. But it is for Irish nationalists to convince them of the advantages of making common cause, not for the British government.

The only way

There is only one route to the unification of Ireland by agreement, and it does not start from a declaration by the British government that that is what it intends to work for. It lies through the further development of the economy of the Republic: the adaptation of its institutions and social legislation to conform to the wider outlook of its educated citizens; the cultivation of a more instructed and sympathetic understanding of the Irish tradition of Ulster Protestantism; the abandonment of all equivocation concerning the use of violence to achieve unity and the resolute suppression of its manifestations; and a patient programme of action to win over the minds of unionists. At that point a British government will be found ready enough to facilitate transfer of sovereignty. That is the only route to unification by agreement. No other kind, even if possible, is worth having.

State at the Foreign Office, did point out during last week's debate, that the Government already had powers under the Import, Export and Customs Powers (Defence) Act 1953, that is not over contracts but as regards the shipment of goods, ie, including goods shipped under pre-existing contracts. He added that no decision had been taken to use those powers and promised that if any such decision were taken it would be submitted to the House for approval. He failed to make it clear that there was every prospect of such a decision being taken as early as the following weekend.

To that extent it is understandable that MPs felt they had been misled, and the Government was certainly open to criticism for the way it had handled the affair. But it had not positively misled them. It could and should have defended itself and the decision taken, since it was a decision reached, not without difficulty, by nine governments in close and elaborate consultation, with the British Government insisting particularly that the Nine must act together. It might perhaps have been defeated. If so the defeat would have been honourable, and not tragic—since the number of contracts involved is small and the importance of the sanctions is admitted to be largely symbolic in any case. But to tear up a Community decision without even putting it to vote was undignified and lamentable.

May I add that I believe that the above anomalous state of affairs is nobody's fault in particular: parliamentary privilege just grew (a long time ago) and has not yet atrophied with "progress". Yours sincerely,

JULIE J. COWDREY,
53 Dyne Road, NW6.

May 15.

Retaining Britain's nuclear capability

From Mr S. D. Bailey

Sir, Lord Greenhill (May 16) is right to stress the danger that nuclear weapons will be acquired by irrational authoritarian regimes. There is also the risk that such weapons might fall into the hands of terrorists or criminals. In addition to the six or seven states which make their own nuclear arms, there are probably some 25 countries which possess the technical capability to make nuclear explosive devices, even sophisticated delivery systems are beyond all but a few. This underlines the importance of an effective strategy to ban and reverse nuclear proliferation.

A conference to review the nuclear non-proliferation treaty will open in Geneva in August, and some of the non-nuclear states will doubtless deploy precisely those arguments for strategic nuclear independence which have been aired in your columns by distinguished former officers and diplomats. The predicament for the United Kingdom will be to make a convincing case not for proliferation but for non-proliferation.

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY D. BAILEY,
19 Deansway,
East Finchley, N2.

Status of the midwife

From Mr Albert Davis

Sir, Mrs Kitzinger (May 13) firmly believes that "midwives matter". Of course they do: without their devoted nursing care and specialized expertise the maternity services would break down. But to increase their already fully extended capabilities by a reversal to home confinements (as Mrs Kitzinger advocates) is both unfair to the midwife and potentially harmful to her patients. Under the best conditions delivery at home is a makeshift compromise between patient concern and medical convenience: in the worst it can be a dangerous shambles.

Midwifery is too important to be left exclusively to midwives. The hazards of delivery are too many and too serious to subject both patient and midwife to the risks inherent in the obvious lack of medical facilities in the home.

Mrs Kitzinger believes that "for most mothers and babies the midwives' essential skills of encouraging the natural progress of labour are more important than skills in surgery and biomechanics", and she advocates an extension of home deliveries to allow of the free exercise of these skills. Now, most hospital deliveries are perfectly normal, and are carried through exclusively by midwives using the method Mrs Kitzinger advocates. But some babies get stuck and have to be extracted: others are born asphyxiated and must be resuscitated. Haemorrhage may occur and must be controlled, and labour may be extensive and require repair. All these are common and potentially serious complications, requiring urgent and expert attention well beyond the capacity of the most experienced midwife, and it is unfair and unwise to ask her to attempt to cope with such emergencies in home surroundings. Mrs Kitzinger's advocacy of an increase in home confinements is both misguided and retrograde. A lifetime in obstetrics convinces me that no baby should be born at home unless circumstances prevent hospital waiting.

ALBERT DAVIS, FRCOG,
33 Harley Street, W1.

Alternatives to prison

From Mr Nicholas Hinton

Sir, The Home Secretary, in his statement (Report, May 1) on the recommendations of the May committee (the inquiry into the United Kingdom prison services), pledged the Government's support for alternatives to imprisonment. He stressed the increasing part that the outside community must play, whether through statutory or voluntary agencies.

I welcome this and other responses by the Home Secretary to some of the recommendations of the May committee. I would like to add that I have no doubt that voluntary organizations in particular can play a significantly increased part in developing many more alternatives. But little or no progress will be made unless money is made available.

Experience in other fields, such as job creation for the unemployed or housing associations, shows that, given resources, the community through voluntary organizations can add to the facilities available on a large scale. A similar and positive approach towards the voluntary sector needs to be taken by the Government in creating alternatives to imprisonment. Of course, this means additional expenditure in the short term, but it is an investment worth making now in order to reduce the use of prison, the most expensive facility in the longer term.

To that extent it is understandable that MPs felt they had been misled, and the Government was certainly open to criticism for the way it had handled the affair. But it had not positively misled them. It could and should have defended itself and the decision taken, since it was a decision reached, not without difficulty, by nine governments in close and elaborate consultation, with the British Government insisting particularly that the Nine must act together. It might perhaps have been defeated. If so the defeat would have been honourable, and not tragic—since the number of contracts involved is small and the importance of the sanctions is admitted to be largely symbolic in any case.

But to tear up a Community decision without even putting it to vote was undignified and lamentable.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
National Council for Voluntary Organisations,
26 Bedford Square, WC1.

Scottish art influence

From Lord Haig

Sir, I must disagree with Michael Jacobs (May 15) about Scottish art influence. Taking the factors of selection and distortion into consideration, I am left with no doubt about the way the late Sir William Gillies interpreted "the ever shifting lights and colours of Scottish weather". His paintings convey not only the mood of our landscape seen in a soft light but its local colour particularly vibrant in winter or wet weather. I doubt if he did the experience had nothing to do with his later paintings.

Yours truly,
HAIG,
Bamersyde,
Malrose,
Kirkcudbrightshire.

May 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Civil Service pay and comparability

From the Secretary General of the Council of Civil Service Unions

Sir, You assert in your editorial, "Engine of inflation" (May 17), that the Government has gone much further than simply honouring agreements in the Civil Service and you grumble about Government giving no sign that it intends to dislodge pay agreements and end the pay research system. Let me explain what happened this year.

Management assessed the outcome of negotiations on pay research data before negotiations commenced. A cash limit of 14 per cent was fixed. The Government did not say how this precise figure emerged, but it was clearly intended to influence pay negotiations. Bargaining was particularly difficult and unions could argue in some cases that it was fair and just to proceed. Management was clearly determined to produce an agreed result related to their original pay bargaining position. Pay increases were finally achieved, subject to (i) an arbitrary 2.3 per cent cut in manpower costs and (ii) deferral of the operative date, from April 1 to May 7.

Arbitration was theoretically open to the unions, but only on the size of increases. Had unions achieved higher figures there would have been a more severe arbitrary manpower squeeze. We were informed that arbitration about the method of payment, ie, staging or deferral, was ruled out—not for the first time, but arguably a breach of the arbitration agreement.

Given this factual background, it is more difficult to understand your botheration about Government honouring agreements. The truth is that they have moved very fast in the opposite direction. You should therefore express pleasure in this amoral process.

You allege that the pay research system purports to link civil servants' pay "to the rest of the economy". It purports to do no such thing. The primary principle for pay is fair comparison with the remuneration of "outside staff employed on broadly comparable work taking account of differences in other service conditions". An independent unit produces facts and an independent board monitors and authenticates unit activities. These are not minor technical points but are strictly related to your arguments. If the detailed facts are,

Health Service change

From Charles Morrison, MP for Dicelles (Conservative)

Sir, Just as you are right once again to draw attention to the unpopularity of the 1974 reorganization of the Health Service (Leader, April 30), so you are correct in expressing scepticism about current plans for further reorganization. The main objectives of the Government's consultative document, "Patients First", are to strengthen management and simplify the structure of the service. Thereby it is intended to make savings in bureaucracy and costs, releasing money for the benefit of patients. These objectives are admirable, but the suggested methods of achieving them are of extremely doubtful validity.

The main government proposal is to abolish area health authorities and replace them with district health authorities. In effect this will mean that the existing 90 area health authorities will be replaced by roughly 180 district health authorities. If that is not a recipe for an increase in bureaucracy, it is difficult to imagine what is.

For a start, the Government proposes that each district health authority should have about 20 appointed members instead of the 18 or so at present. Has anyone made an estimate of the costs of servicing this huge increase in the number of appointed members?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MORRISON,
House of Commons, SW1.

Disclosure of sources

From Mr Raymond Weeks

Sir, The Court of Appeal's decision (see BSC v Granada Television, Law Report, May 8), though perverse, is not necessarily, contrary to your view, a disservice to the cause of press freedom" (leading article, May 8).

The Court acknowledges the right of the media to a limited privilege not to have to disclose its sources—provided it acts responsibly. And Lord Denning recognizes that such responsibility may even be exercised by publication itself: "... if it got hold of a trustworthy informant who gave information of which the public ought to know, then even though it originated in a newspaper, the newspaper may well be held to act with due sense of responsibility in publishing it and should not be compelled to divulge its source." This may actually be an advance on the pre-existing law.

Nevertheless the Court ordered disclosure of the informant's identity not, it seems, because of what Granada did, but because of the manner in which it did it. All three judges rap the knuckles of the television company for its bad form: it left it too late before informing the Chairman of BSC of the secret documents. It failed to show him the script before he was

interviewed; the interview itself was improperly conducted; the documents were mutilated in order to protect the informant's identity. The approach adopted by the Master of the Rolls differs, in certain respects, from those of the other members of the Court, but in all the judgments there lurks the suspicion of the dis



COURT CIRCULAR

May 20. The Queen arrived at Lancaster Castle Station in the Royal Train and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire (Mr Simon Townsley).

Her Royal Highness drove to Lancaster Pumping Station, Quernmore Park and, having been received by the Chairman of North West Water Authority (Mr G. Maguire), toured the Station.

Afterwards, The Queen visited the Franklin Treatment Works Control Room, where Her Majesty inaugurated the Conjunctive Use Scheme and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Queen honoured the North West Water Authority with her presence at luncheon.

This afternoon, Her Majesty visited Sunwood Farm, Wimbleigh and Lea Farm, Myerscough where, escorted by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Clerk of the Council (Mr Richard Wheeler), The Queen met tenants, farm workers and estate staff and toured the farm buildings.

Her Majesty subsequently visited Lancashire College of Agriculture, Myerscough Hall and was received by the Chairman of the Council (Mr Geoffrey Royce), and the Principal (Mr Frank Peregrine).

The Queen later left Preston Station in the Royal Train to London.

The Hon. Mary Morrison, the Right Hon. Norman St. John Stevas, MP (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Sir Michael Heseltine, Major Sir Alan Rawlinson and Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Guy were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, arrived at Truro Railways Station in the Royal Train this morning.

Her Royal Highness opened and toured Penzance Comprehensive School and afterwards attended a Service in Truro Cathedral to

commemorate the centenary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Cathedral.

The Prince of Wales subsequently visited Truro School on the occasion of its centenary.

The Hon. Edward Adeane was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight to visit Aylesbury today and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Major J. D. Youl).

Her Royal Highness drove to Park Special School and, having been received by the Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council (Mr J. Ireland), toured the School and opened the new swimming pool.

The Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips was later present at luncheon at County Hall.

In the afternoon, Her Royal Highness opened and toured the new Aylesbury Magistrates' Courts and afterwards viewed an exhibition arranged by Aylesbury Vale Industries Association and attended a reception given by Aylesbury Vale District Council.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke and Major Nicholas Lawson were in attendance.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon. Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE

May 20. The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present at the opening of the 10th Day of The Empire Strikes Back held at the Odeon Theatre, Leicester Square, in aid of the Variety Club of Great Britain, the National Society for the Prevention of cruelty to Children, the Royal Highness is President and the Invalid Children's Aid Association, of which Her Royal Highness is President.

The Hon. Mrs. Whitehead was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Parish on June 2.

The Duke of Edinburgh is a trustee will attend a reception at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, on June 11.

The Prince of Wales, as Great Master, will attend the Order of the Garter "at home" at Westminster Abbey on June 26.

Requiem Mass for Anne Parish, formerly Mrs Ian Skinner, will be celebrated at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, SW1, on May 29, at

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Report May 20 1980

Court aids Jersey insolvency proceedings

e a Debtor
point of the Royal Court
"v the Debtor
gagement May 15]
a court allowed an application
the Viscount of the Royal
of Jersey that, pursuant to
the Bankruptcy Act,
he should be granted an aid
effect to an order in aid as
ver (without security) of all
movable property of the
a solicitor, situated in
the Viscount, the chief
of the Royal Court, was
power to realize and sell
soritor's movable property and
all necessary steps for that

tion 122 of the Bankruptcy
1944, provides: "The High
the county courts, in
upcy in Scotland and Ire-
and every British court
here having jurisdiction in
upcy or insolvency
order of the court seek-
with a request to another
said courts, shall be
ed sufficient to enable the
court to exercise in regard
soritors situated by the
jurisdiction which made the request,
a court to which the request
de, could exercise in regard
matters within their
jurisdiction."

Mr Muir Hunter, QC
John Biggs for the debtor,
LORDSHIP and the debtor
solicitor of the Supreme
and formerly carried on
the Leicester and Notting-
ham 1974 as a branch of
an English firm. It
also, in 1975 he dis-
of the Leicester and Not-
ham practice gave as a
tant. He then lived and car-
in his profession in Jersey.
he followed the usual
ticipated, and on November
order of the Royal Court of
initiated a process of
tration of his movable
known under the local
in Jersey. The debtor
died before the date of
had come to England,
published a practice in Lon-
appeared to be making a
od living.
ose circumstances the Royal
of Jersey set in motion
ure section 122 of the
Act in 1914. A request
to that section was made
High Court on behalf of
court on January 2
and on January 16 formal
was made by solicitors
the Viscount to make
in aid of section 122 of
dated January 15, 1979,
on the debtor in sup-
the Viscount was proposed
ver (without security) of
debtor's movable property
and with liberty to realize
it if and with authority to
make any necessary
An order in substantially
was made by Mr Justice
In re *Osborn* ([1931] 1923
189) in favour of a trust
bankruptcy appointed under
written materials for the
ment of modern Jersey
ich was derived from the
customary law of Nor-
were comparatively
and textbooks were few.
sons for the decisions of
al Court were often ex-
closely and without
discussion of principle.

of Appeal

Open approach to unfair dismissal

v BP Oil (Kent Refinery)

Lord Justice Lawton, Lord
Shaw and Sir Stanley Rose,
raph 6(8) of Schedule 1 to
e Union and Labour Rela-
1974, dealing with fair
dismissal, requires
an unambiguous, requires
a and not the one which
is legal argument to look
y aspect of the case. The
must show that he has
y and reasonably, when
the employee concerned
involved in the Court of
the Employment Appeal
to set out guidelines and
make rules and establish
rions for industrial tri-
to follow or take into
when applying that para-

raph 6(8) (now re-enacted
employment Protection
revised 1978) to determine
the question whether
dismissal was fair or unfair,
regard to the reason shown
employer, shall depend on
having regard to the
substantial merits of the
as acted reasonably in
as a sufficient reason
using the employee."

Court of Appeal, giving a
judgment, allowed a
the employer, BP Oil
(Kent Refinery) Ltd, from
the Employment Appeal
that when dismissing Mr
F. S. Bailey, they
comply with the contract
advised prescribed such
that in this situation it was
possible to say that the
procedure had been compiled
would have led to the
conclusion the possibility
of it being done so.

W. Seymour for the
v Mr Robert Turner for
y.

JUSTICE LAWTON.
the judgment of the court
that the appeal failed
that the question in regard
ractice of industrial tribu-
approach of the Employ-
ment Appeal Tribunal in the
case was that employers
not comply strictly with
disciplinary procedure
failed to prove that there
been a dismissal even
ad, did not discharge the
proof that there was a
reason for the dismissal
as commonly accepted by
industrial tribunals
if, in the press were reliable,
it did not have the appear-
ance.

Mr. a ringer graded as a
1, started work with the
s at their Isle of Grain
in January, 1959, and
as an employee was
In 1957 the employers
heme of self-certification
periods of sickness. If
was unable to come
up for three days
he was sick, on returning
in an application for
pay, he gave the days he
v and what was wrong.
If the refinery medical
was satisfied with the
he passed it to the
wages supervisor, and the
was paid his ordinary
the time he was off sick.
ch, 1977, Mr. Bailey was

Accordingly, important parts of the
law still resided in the breasts of
the judges and legal practitioners
of the island.

A number of witnesses had given
evidence, apart from the debtor
himself. There had been only one
witness of Jersey law, Mr Philip
Martin, Balfhache, the Solicitor
General. Both he and the Viscount
were officers of the Crown in Jersey,
and he is a solicitor. Mr Balfhache
was consulted from time to time by
the Viscount, and there had been
discussion between them in the
preparation of the application to the
English court. Mr Balfhache
was examined at length in the
witness box and his testimony was
highly valuable and persuasive.

The debtor claimed that the
application did not fall within section
122 of the Bankruptcy Act, on the
ground: (1) that the Jersey court
was not a "British court elsewhere", ie, outside the United
Kingdom, within the meaning of the
section; (2) that it was not, so far as concerned the procedure
in question, a court "having jurisdiction
in bankruptcy or insolvency", and (3) that the proceedings
against the debtor were not "a matter
of bankruptcy" within the
section.

Among striking differences were
(1) the exclusion of immovable
property from the assets realizable
in *défaillante*; (2) the absence of
any discharge of the debtor from
debts proved in *défaillante* proceed-
ings, so far as not recoverable;
(3) possibly the absence of an
initial vesting of property in the
Viscount, similar to that affected
by section 53 of the Bankruptcy
Act.

Mr Muir Hunter relied on all
those points in submitting that
défaillante proceedings were not mat-
ters of bankruptcy within section
122, and also—perhaps more
strongly—of alimony and
discharged by statutory law
but by judicial practice, nowhere
to be found (except as to matters
within the rules of 1968) precisely
set out in writing. He said that
the court could never
have intended to burden the courts
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difficulty the system. That argument
wholly failed to convince the
court. If two British courts were
to conduct their insolvency busi-
ness according to practically similar
rules, in the one jurisdiction
it would move to the other, and
the other established an unrecog-
nized customary law. It could not be
right to treat one court as entitled
to invoke section 122 and the other
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The 1914 Act did not define
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Was *défaillante* a matter of bank-
ruptcy? The procedure was one
of several alternative methods
available to dispose of the affairs
of an insolvent debtor under
Jersey law, and the procedure most
frequently used today. It was no
longer the ordinary law of the
island nor was it, as indicated by
the statutory enactment,
referred to as *reconnaissance*. The
procedure was now defined by
the Royal Court Rules, 1968, as
amended, but that was by no means
a complete code comparable with
the 1914 Act.

In *Re Défaillante Overseas Insur-
ance Brokers Ltd* (1966) 112
the Royal Court of Jersey defined
défaillante as "a declaration of
bankruptcy, the effect of which is
to deprive an insolvent debtor of
the possession of his movable
estate and to vest that possession
in Her Majesty's Viscount whose
duty it is to get in and liquidate

that estate for the benefit of the
creditors who prove their claims".

The *défaillante* procedure
is similar to the English
bankruptcy in (1) the seizure and
realization of an insolvent debtor's
assets for the benefit of his
creditors; (2) the ratable distribution
of the proceeds of realization of
the assets among creditors who
proved their claims; (3) the pro-
tection of the debtor and also the
creditors from the enforcement of individual debts
during the *défaillante* procedure.

On the third point, evidence
and argument had been applied to
the question whether the *défaillante* procedure the assets of
a debtor vested as property in the
Viscount as the property of an
English bankrupt trustee. His
Lordship was not section 53 of the
Bankruptcy Act. There was no
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point, for whatever the proprietary
title of the Viscount, it was
appropriate for the High Court to
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court under the Act.

But even if any particular defect
in the Jersey procedure outside
the intention of section 122, and also—perhaps more
strongly—of alimony and
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ONCE YOU'VE DRIVEN ONE YOU'RE UNLIKELY TO DRIVE ANOTHER.

Drive a Mercedes-Benz and you'll like it and you'll soon see why you're unlikely to drive anything else.

Unless it's another Mercedes-Benz, of course.

In fact, previous owners of a Mercedes-Benz of every five years ago or more.

For a moment though, imagine yourself driving the one in the photograph.

Far from home, alone, on a long, winding country road with the light fading, beginning to fade.

And you'll soon see the difference a Mercedes-Benz makes.

Because you're always in complete control, whichever model you choose.

Whether you're driving in fair weather or foul, along country roads, in heavy town traffic or simply covering mile after mile of motorway.

The one illustrated here, for example, comes with a choice of seven different power units.

Ranging from the economical 200D diesel to the powerful 280E petrol engine.

There are three diesel models, the 200D and 240D, which have 4 cylinder engines and the 300D has the 5 cylinder version.

Of the four petrol models in the series two are 4 cylinder, the 200 and 230, the 250 is a 6 cylinder and the 280E is a 6 cylinder with fuel injection.

You only have to ask yourself which power unit will best suit all your particular requirements.

Because overall performance, in every Mercedes-Benz, is the correct balance between manoeuvrability and sheer power so you can cope with any situation.

To prove it, Scotland's long-distance rally specialist, Andrew Cowan, won the London to Sydney Rally in a 280E that was a virtually standard production model.

And last year, Mercedes-Benz came 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the Bamako Rally across Africa.

By entering such competitions as these, Mercedes-Benz not only prove the high-speed capabilities of their cars but they also test basic construction under extremely demanding conditions.

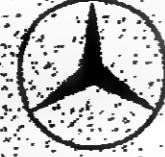
Which is all part of their programme of continually developing the very concept of the car.

Fulfilling the demands made by the Mercedes-Benz scientists, engineers and designers to go far beyond the test tracks and laboratories.

So, at the end of the day, all you have to do is enjoy driving your Mercedes-Benz.

Knowing you're in the car that best suits your particular needs.

Whichever particular Mercedes-Benz you choose.



Mercedes-Benz





China to run container ship service to Europe

China will launch its first scheduled direct container service from Hongkong to Europe on May 30, initially operating twice monthly sailings to London, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Antwerp and Bremen.

The service will be operated by the China Ocean Shipping Co (Cosco), based in Peking.

Previously, Cosco ships with their yellow funnels and red stripes conducted only non-scheduled cargo services to south-east Asian ports and sometimes to Europe.

£35m EEC grants

The European Commission has approved grants totalling £35m for Great Britain in the second allocation from the 1980 budget of the European Regional Development Fund. Biggest single grant is £6.3m for a new bridge over the River Foyle in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

Deadline extended

The United States has postponed until Jun 20 a decision on what action it will take to counter British quotas on two American textile products, a European Community Commission spokesman said in Brussels. The Commission had requested the delay from the original May 20 deadline.

Swiss deficit wider

Switzerland's trade deficit in April widened to 1.263m Swiss francs from 1.230m in March and from 302.3m francs a year earlier, the Swiss statistics office announced in Berne.

Accounting plea

The United States National Foreign Trade Council says in New York it has asked for revision of proposed new European Community accounting rules, which it claims will hurt United States multi-national corporations.

Chinese seek advice

Technicians and engineers from Peking, Shanghai and Canton will seek help and advice from Hongkong authorities in the expansion of Shunchu municipality (Soo City), which borders Hongkong, from a population of 300,000 to two millions in 10 years. An area of one million square feet will be developed.

Sony to spend £10m on television tube factory

Sony Corporation is to increase British production of colour television tubes by more than 10 per cent with a £10m tube factory next to its television set assembly plant at Bridgend, South Wales.

It is the second move this year to increase British tube manufacture after it shrank in 1977 when the Thora group pulled out. Mulard, part of Philips, the Dutch electronics group, is Britain's only existing tube maker and has just started a two-year programme to raise production by 25 per cent to 1.5 million tubes a year. Increased automation is being used to tackle production costs.

Sony is one of the five Japanese television makers established in Britain and it will be producing by next year 27-inch tubes for sets that will be aimed mainly at export markets in Europe. Construction of the factory is due to start in September. The tubes will be of Sony's Triton design which is not used by other makers.

Mr Akio Morita, chairman and chief executive officer of Sony Corporation, who was in London yesterday, had reservations about how far automation will be taken at the new tube plant and at extensions now under construction at the Bridgend television set manufacturing plant.

But many of the techniques that have put Japanese makers ahead of British manufacturers are expected to be incorporated. One indication of the automation programme's extent is that although Sony's present Bridgend factory employs about 750 people the extension and the tube factory will add about 200 jobs for a doubling of production.

Production capacity is expected to be about 150,000 colour sets a year although this could rise towards 200,000 within a year. Sony UK, the British subsidiary with the help of government development



Mr. Akio Morita: guarded about automation.

which will bring its British investment up to £20m, was partly based on the idea of bringing more of the total manufacture to one site. But Mr. Morita said the company was also influenced by the excellent record of the Welsh factory with its good industrial relations.

It could bring Sony's proportion of British origin of components to 90 per cent or more although some decision, such as on the suppliers of the blank glass tubes, remains to be made. Some of the more complex components are still likely to come from Japan.

Sony UK, the British subsidiary with the help of government development

area aid, Sony UK already exports more than 50 per cent of its colour television production.

This year it became the first Japanese electronics company to get a Queen's Award for exports. When the tube-making factory comes on stream the export ratio is expected to rise substantially.

Sony's move to set up its first tube making factory in Europe comes as the phase alternative line (PAL) patent agreements are running out. They precluded Japanese makers from importing into Europe their larger colour television sets.

This will increase competition in the British and continental markets but Sony's tube venture, cutting freight and packaging costs on imported components, does not necessarily point to other Japanese manufacturers established in Britain taking the same route. The Sony system, which uses one instead of three electron beam guns, prevents Sony buying in tubes in general use, and forces the setting up of specialized tube production.

But Matsushita Electric last month announced a doubling of colour television set output in Britain at its Cardiff subsidiary, a £2m expansion aimed at raising production to 120,000 sets a year.

Lord Trenchard, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, welcomed the Sony investment yesterday. He said it showed what an attractive investment prospect Britain was for overseas companies.

Later he opened a new London headquarters of Dow Chemical in Hounslow and praised Dow's "important investments" in Britain.

Derek Hartis

British exporters confident of keeping open Iran trade route

By David Hewson

British business with Iran is not likely to be seriously affected by the government's trade sanctions.

Companies involved in Iranian trade were worried by the backdating of the measures to November 4 which has now been removed after pressure from backbench MPs. But as far as the bulk of future business is concerned, there is a growing confidence among traders that the route to Iran will remain legally open.

Apart from the fact that such key areas as banking, food and medicine, and long term contracts as the Talbot car assembly deal are specifically excluded from the sanctions, no mention is made of reexport. This leaves the way open to British companies to ship goods into the Middle East and wash their hands of them when it comes to the question of destination.

The main route for such shipments is certain to be through Dubai, the principal port of the United Arab Emirates. The port has a substantial Iranian population and is already heavily involved in both legal and illegal trade with Iran from Port Said and the more modern complex of Port Rashid.

Far from fearing the introduction of sanctions, Dubai traders have made it clear to British exporters in recent weeks that they would welcome sanctions because they will bring trade to them.

Dubai shippers have active links with Iranian ports and have been busily circumventing American sanctions for some time by reusing goods on the 160-mile trip from Dubai through the Straits of Hormuz to the Iranian coast.

The importance of Dubai as a trade mart is emphasized by the fact that it is Britain's second biggest market in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia and bought imports worth £305m from Britain last year.

The British Government has acknowledged that the sanctions would be more a way of showing support for the Americans than an economic weapon against Iran.

The measures are considerably weaker than the last sanctions applied by the Government, against Rhodesia. The failure of those measures, which were supported by a military blockade and helped by the fact that Rhodesia was landlocked and supplied by one main railway line, has since become apparent.

British exports to Iran totalled £54m in April, up almost £34m on the previous month. The trade slump which followed the overthrow of the Shah was reflected in last year's trade figures which showed that British exports had totalled £20.8m, compared with £75.2m in 1978.

Norway plan threatens UK chemical producers

From John Huxley

Otto, May 20

Norway is planning a further expansion of its petrochemicals industry based on oil stocks from the North Sea. The move will pose a threat to the domestic and overseas markets of British and other Western European producers.

Business houses involved in trade with Iran were maintaining a discreet silence last night over how they would react to sanctions, and it seems clear that those who decide to ship to Iran, the majority by shipping through Dubai and possibly Oman and Kuwait, will not publicize their dealings.

Though British trade with Iran fell back steadily last year, there was something of a revival in the first three months of 1980 which encouraged a number of firms which were cautious about the country to negotiate contracts.

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The Government was forced to concede at an early stage that, given the effects of the Rhodesian sanctions, the possibility of similar measures against Iran, which has a considerable coastline and only one directly unfriendly neighbour, Iraq, having any real economic threat was minimal.

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British exports to Iran totalled £54m in April, up almost £34m on the previous month. The trade slump which followed the overthrow of the Shah was reflected in last year's trade figures which showed that British exports had totalled £20.8m, compared with £75.2m in 1978.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A time for prudence

ries of the secondary banking crisis '74 are not so distant that the lessons were learned then can now be d. So it is clear that the Banking Act of Bank of England papers on liquidity, adequacy and foreign exchange are, in part reflect an awareness that a must be the watchword over the next years or so if difficulties are to be d in the banking system.

is no such liquidity crisis on the a but it is a wise moment to take and tighten where necessary pruden- quirements.

unrely, the discussion can be held in aively calm climate even though the prospect gives cause for concern. ending has been soaring ahead of a recession for example, and there are a about the Euromarkets, typified by strictures from the Bank of Interna- al Settlements.

so, it was inevitable that whatever of England proposed to regulate the banking system more firmly be resisted. The banks have, by and reacted like wild horses for the first orralled in a typical Western. On the England's side the strategy has been a and discussion and, clearly the is anxious to maintain the Bank's e approach towards the banking

ession is no bad thing given the times and even if nothing concrete emerges end the debate will in itself be an e to troubles. The present exercise, a valuable constructive—and it may to have been essential

ite/Clifford
-voting

offer for Clifford's Dairies, which w been withdrawn, looked doomed to start. But Unigate's tactics have highlighted the vexed issue of shares.

a fact that the holders of the y of shares in Clifford's have not had what has been going on.

Clifford and Smith families were scupper Unigate's original proposed voting in favour of the £1.5m rights they had only about 36 per cent of capital but controlled over 70 per the voting shares. Altogether 79 per voting shares were cast in favour rights issue. The Clifford and Smith are only taking up two of every voting rights shares. But after the issue they will still control over 70 per the votes.

Unigate increased its offer, only boosting the premium placed voting shares, the Clifford and Smith still said no. Unfortunately, the surrounding Rule 21 of the Takeover covering prices paid for different of shares will not now be tested.

point was whether the premium oners—raised to 90 per cent—was i. the Clifford's voting have traded at a premium of about cent. When dealings resumed the ordinary shares were quoted and the non-voting 'A' shares at premium of over three-fifths.

directive

ish among i-nationals

companies likely to be affected by sions of the EEC seventh directive consolidated accounts are now starting with anguish and indignation as lications sink in. The latest body to chorus of complaint is the influen- National Trade Council, which says a proposals—and in particular the l that a set of separate consolidated s should be prepared for all the sidiaries of a foreign parent—inflict undue cost and aggravation i-national companies.

Community needs to know what the multi-nationals control within ities. It is not reasonable, how-

ever, to force a company through the expense and aggravation of producing separate accounts for the purpose, if the information is available elsewhere anyway.

Surly the answer to this problem is to require separate accounts only if the information required cannot be obtained from the main accounts?

"Shell"

The contribution from gas

"Shell's" gas and crude oil operations are now beginning to make their mark on profits, helping to offset weaker volume trends because of the mild winter and continued pressure on downstream margins in the opening quarter of this year.

Knocking out the by now ritual adjustments for stock profits—which rose from £135m last year to £320m in the first quarter because of the sharp rise in crude prices—and for currency translations—where the strength of sterling turned last time's £67m gain to losses of £70m—"Shell's" stated 16 per cent net income rise to £718m falls to a more modest 12 per cent improvement to £468m, still well above the £400m quarterly average last year.

Taking into account last year's first quarter losses of £32m arising from Shell's share of the General Atomic nuclear losses the underlying improvement is more like 22 per cent, however.

The main message that is now starting to come through in group results is that "Shell" is transforming itself from a traditionally crude short oil concern into one with much better access to crude supplies. First-quarter figures have been helped by the higher value of equity crude although with gas flaring curbing the North Sea contribution from 149,000 to 124,000 barrels a day the full effect here has yet to be felt.

The contribution from gas is also having a material effect with higher prices offsetting a volume drop of around a tenth outside North America, and that is before gas prices have really started to catch up with oil price rises.

Elsewhere the reshaped tanker fleet has helped stem the profits drain from marine operations while the cut of the barrel involving a switch to higher margin products is also coming through more strongly, helping the refining and marketing operations.

Chemicals are still proving a difficult area with the market place preventing product prices rising fast enough to recover stock increases.

With FIFO stock adjustments likely to fall from £1,120m last year to £350m-£440m in 1980, most forecasts are now centring on a fall in stated net income from £3,051m to around £2,300m though on a LIFO basis underlying profits will be up from £1,617m to around £1,900m.

My first reaction to the rather impressive statistics produced yesterday by the Uni- Trust Association, is one of immense irritation. Why on earth haven't these figures been available, in this form, before? The unit trust industry, albeit that it is in some way to blame for its association's dilatoriness, should be feeling even more peeved.

Unit trust sales were poor throughout most of the 'seventies and have been abysmal for the first few months of the 'eighties. Would this have been the case had investors known more about the relative performance of the income funds (a large portion of the entire market) vis-à-vis growth rivals such as building societies and even bank accounts?

In the past 10 years, unit trust income has risen by 208 per cent on average compared with 72 per cent for building societies and 148 per cent for bank deposits, and the overall return of £1,000 invested at the beginning of 1970 is £2,686 compared with £1,890 for building societies and £1,543 for banks.

The FT All-Share Index's £1,000 grew to £3,187 and the Ordinary Index to £1,451. Individual equities may have done better but, none the less, the performance of income unit trusts does deserve favourable mention.

Business Diary: BS's boarding party

Geneva Article 273 of the Swiss penal code, dealing with economic espionage, is intended to shield industrial or business secrets from prying alien ears and eyes.

Under the article it is a penal offence to reveal, or to obtain and communicate, information held to be in this category to "an official or private organization or to a foreign private enterprise, or to their agents". The stipulated punishment is imprisonment or penal servitude, with or without a fine.

Article 273 is even more comprehensive than those relating to political and military espionage which refer specifically to intelligence service activities.

It is also a far tougher instrument than the equivalent one (Article 162) on industrial and commercial confidentiality within Switzerland itself. The rationale seems to be that a secret still within the country's frontiers at least remains Swiss, irrespective of the circumstances in which it may have been acquired. The penal code was, of course, drawn up long before the heyday of transnational companies.

The law relating to domestic confidentiality has also to be activated by the complainant, whereas under the provisions of Article 273 the state itself initiates proceedings.

In concept, this article can apply to virtually any endeavour directed to feeding out whatever information could conceivably be regarded as secret in the widest sense—and even information that elsewhere would hardly be classed in that category.

In theory, for example, conclusions reached on the basis of gathering and collating published data in a particular field, if this process depended essentially on the presence in the country of the person responsible, could be included.

In practice, however, the

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 21 1980

How the Swiss protect business secrets

In the mid-1970s Mr Stanley Adams, a Maltese-born Briton was prosecuted by the Swiss for providing the European Commission with documents relating to his employer, the Basle-based drugs company Hoffmann-La-Roche. Tomorrow in the European Parliament a French MEP will ask the Commission to demand that the Swiss should grant Adams an amnesty. Alan McGregor has been examining Switzerland's rigorous economic espionage laws

authorities are disposed to differentiate between real economic espionage on behalf of a state or private concern and bona fide newsgathering—if perhaps sometimes in two minds about aspects of investigative reporting.

Some years ago after The Sunday Times reported on the dubious role of a Zurich concern in assisting third country arson of sanctions on Rhodesia, A Swiss-German newsletter observed pointedly that as the activities reported by the newspaper did not violate Swiss law and also concerned business of a strictly confidential nature, reporters working on the story could land themselves within the scope of Article 273. The federal authorities chose to ignore the hint.

Of 111 cases of espionage by eastern countries which were investigated by Swiss police between 1948 and 1976 a total of 26 related to economic matters, 23 were directed against other countries—Switzerland serving as a convenient meeting point. 43 were political and 19 military.

Over the same period western nations were involved in 51 cases—three concerning other

countries, four military, 11 political, 12 relating to industrial secrets and 21 being directed to securing information from banks.

The latest example of the last-mentioned category, involving two official French fiscal investigators seeking the names of holders of undeclared—to the French authorities—accounts. It once more highlights the famous Article 47 of the 1934 Banking secrecy law under which anybody responsible for deliberate disclosure can get up to six months in prison or be fined 50,000 Swiss francs.

If negligence is to blame, the fine can still be 30,000 Swiss francs. The law applies equally to retired bank employees.

As the banks invariably point out, the law was not conceived as blanket cover for funds from anywhere but in reaction to the introduction by the Nazis of severe penalties—anything up to the death sentence—for persons concealing their possession of assets outside the Third Reich. It was essentially to protect Jewish victims of persecution.

The two Frenchmen, whose

trial before a Zurich court is

on June 17, are ap-

parently to be charged under both the Banking Law and Article 273. A similar incident in Geneva some years ago apparently did not come within the province of the former because it involved a finance house, rather than a bank, and so rated as economic espionage only.

Agreements to such requests, it said, constituted espionage under Swiss law—namely, acquiring and passing on information irrespective of value, not generally known, but "not necessarily secret"—an example of the long arm of Article 273.

The most sensational case of industrial espionage—with heavy military overtones—in recent Swiss history was in 1971 when Mr Alfred Frauenknecht, an aircraft engineer at the Sulzer works in Winterthur, was accused of supplying Israeli agents with some 155,000 classified documents and blueprints dealing with the manufacturing processes of the Atar 9C jet engine, in service with both the Israeli and the Swiss air forces.

The prosecution said that he had been paid 860,000 Swiss francs for delivering 24 crates of documents and blueprints to a trucking depot near the Swiss-German border over an 18-month period. He was found guilty of treasonable activities and sentenced to four-and-a-half years.

country of origin in 1978, had been in Switzerland for 15 years, having obtained Swiss nationality through documents portraying the man as the natural son of a Swiss citizen killed in an accident while living in Bucharest in 1951.

While the companies concerned underlined that their former employees had not had access to sensitive information, the Ministry of Justice and Police has recently warned resident foreigners to be wary of requests by contacts at their embassies or consulates for help in obtaining information "often of the most innocent nature, such as people belonging to a particular association or employed in some branch of industry".

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The 12 western cases involving industrial secrets included an example of the attempted clandestine procurement of technological details by a Japanese watch-manufacturing concern.

There were also instances of intelligence agents from East Germany and Romania establishing themselves in Switzerland and obtaining jobs with leading industrial enterprises. The Romanians, who did not return from a holiday to their

NFC-slipping quietly out of the public sector

There is an irony in the fact that one of the first state industries to be denationalized will be an organization which few people even realize is a public corporation. After all, when the Pickfords man arrives to transport people's goods and chattels to their new homes he hardly needs up to the common idea of one of the public sector's faceless millions.

Mr Bobbie Lawrence, the NFC chairman, says that the corporation had shown itself to be a robust undertaking, even to the face of last year's grave problems—"privatized" in the inelegant language of Whitehall. The Transport Bill, which will start the process, should receive the Royal Assent by the end of next month.

The NFC was the only state organization mentioned by name as a candidate for privatization in the Government's General Election manifesto last year, and its senior board members appear to have developed a harmonious relationship with Whitehall, and Mr Norman Fowler, the Transport Minister, on the question of implementing the commitment.

Much preparatory work covering the introduction of private capital into the business has already been completed. The NFC hopes to have concluded its transformation into a 100 per cent private company by September, the first stage of the switch from public to private.

The second stage is unlikely to be carried through until next year and will be influenced by the state of the stock market. But the intention is that the Government's residual holding in the new company will be a minority stake if at all the NFC would prefer completely private ownership) and some of the equity will be allocated for employees.

Fiat price rises are a problem but the haulage industry and its customers appear to have accepted the inevitability of surcharges, which are being progressively consolidated into rates.

Despite the NFC's size (it represents less than a tenth of the total road haulage market) the active rationalization and diversification programme entered into in recent years looks set to maintain it as an attractive proposition at a time when many other hauliers face the future with far less confidence.

Peter Hill

video cassettes, the prospect of more and better television channels, and the possibility of cable television, the trend would seem to be towards fewer, more expensive cinema seats.

The big chains are making sure that they are well placed

for this change in business climate.

EMI, the largest British cinema owner, has in

joining Thora, combined film

production experience with

large technical resources and

interests in television.

Rank, as well as producing feature films, has television equipment interests, and Classic, the fourth largest British chain, is part of the Grade empire ACC which is seeking to become an entertainment conglomerate as large as anything Hollywood. In the form of Warner Brothers, USA et al, has ever produced.

Their interests must naturally lie following the trend rather than bucking it, and it

is here that the question of that formerly integral part of the film business, the neighbourhood cinema, comes into question.

Audiences are falling already, though none of the technology which is likely to prove the major enemy is yet in use. Last year's decline may in part be put down to the fact that the film industry produced nothing to rival the large audience pullers of the previous years such as Star Wars and Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

But it was also due to a continuing narrowing of the film audience which, though it might have proved a source of worry in other businesses, could become the cinema's saving grace as technological innovations of the 1980s begin to bite.

Audiences are now composed of young people to whom advertising in cinemas has become an extremely effective way of guaranteeing advertising coverage of younger age groups.

Even with some cinema admissions rising between £150,000 and £170,000 in production alone the medium still has its fans, and it keeps them by being flexible over the booking of screen time throughout the country.

The real cost of cinema time to advertisers during 1980 will depend on how much farther audiences fall, and there are no signs of forthcoming features which are likely to repeat the crowd-pulling performances of 1978.

Though there may be reservations, the advertising industry is not likely to lose its love of the cinema, for which the halls themselves, now rationalized and split into multi-screens, may prove to be

Yours apart, film is popular because its scale in putting over a message, whether in a conventional film or through advertising, cannot be matched. In the long run, this may be why the cinema will survive, even if it is in a much altered form.



Photograph: Bill Warkurt

Coming soon: more problems for the cinemas

David Hewson

companies, both in Britain and America, are involved in expensive and ambitious long-term programmes aimed at widening the nature of their entertainments product.

For the entertainments industry

which

is

the

FINANCIAL NEWS

Major bid by private US group

Anthony Hilton

London, a \$1,120m (about £1.5bn) bid for Cities Investing Co. Mr Lyman Hamilton returned in style to the financial scene after a year's absence at the end of 1979 from International Telephone and Telegraph, one of the world's biggest multi-corporations—reputedly after a row with his predecessor, Mr Harold Green.

Hamilton's vehicle for the bid is a private company, which was only formed in January of this year, and has yet to publish a sheet of paper. When it was launched it was

International

"designed to become a significant industrial force" and would grow with a speed and effectiveness not possible for public companies.

Cities Investing Co. which made a brief entry into the United Kingdom a few years ago when it had talks with Redfearn, the York-based glass company, is a far-flung conglomerate with huge assets, but an undistinguished earnings record. The bid of \$30 a share is higher than the stock has been since 1974.

itsubishi has record year

subishi Electric of Japan says that its parent company set a record net profit of 1.5 billion yen (£48m) in the year March 31—a jump of 73.1 per cent from the previous year. It also reached a record billion yen—up 15.1 per cent marking the one trillion yen for the first time.

subishi Electric has

The board, apparently startled by the bid, will meet on Friday to discuss its response. It is also still waiting for details from Tamco on how this massive bid will be financed, given that the Federal Reserve Board is currently resisting the granting of bank loans for takeovers.

A spokesman for Tamco declined to say where the money would come from. But he drew attention to the Tamco board's and Mr Hamilton's partners. Chief among whom is Mr Victor Goulet, a leading figure in the Chicago property scene and reputedly one of the wealthiest men in the Midwest. Other directors include a former director of the Federal Reserve Board, and a former chairman of Beatrice Foods.

become the third heavy electric firm in Japan to report sales of more than one trillion yen, following Hitachi and Toshiba Corp. The main reason for Mitsubishi's profit and sales increases was steady equipment investment by private enterprises like car manufacturers and brisk demand for home electric appliances. Sales of electric parts for motor vehicles air-

conditioning equipment, colour television sets and other consumer appliances were generally brisk.

Sales to the Middle East accounted for 37 per cent of total exports, while those to South East Asia and South America came to 24 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively.

AP—Dow Jones, Tokio.

Lonrho to renew action over missed forecast

By Philip Robinson

Lonrho is to press ahead with legal proceedings regarding the missed profits forecast of Dunford & Elliott, the Sheffield steel group it acquired just over two years ago.

During the takeover, the full Dunford board and its advisers forecast pretax profits of about £5m for the year to October 1977. Profits actually came out at £1.7m.

Yesterday, after a year's investigation, the Takeover Panel said the directors and their advisers, merchant banks Morgan Grenfell and Grindlays Brindis and accountants Turquards, Burton Mayhew, had acted in good faith and with appropriate care in making the forecast.

But last night Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said: "It is ridiculous. We don't accept the Takeover Panel's findings. We have waited two years for this. At the request of the panel we elected not to go ahead with legal proceedings while they were investigating. Now they have come up with this, we shall have to resume those legal proceedings.

"I am not in a position to discuss who might be involved in those proceedings. I don't think there are now any of the original Dunford board members left."

Last September Lonrho said it was considering calling for a police inquiry after its internal investigations into the circumstances of the takeover and Dunford's subsequent failure to come near its profits forecast.

Dunford's profits forecast was made at the time of an unwanted takeover by fellow steel group Johnson & Firth Brown. It was confirmed when Lonrho launched its successful £15.3m counter-bid in February 1977.

Lonrho took over Dunford in an agreed bid partly on the basis of a pre tax profit prediction of "approximately £5m". Early in the following year Dunford revealed that its profits were not up to expectations.

"Our supermarkets are a year round business", says Mr Saypol. "We have themes for Easter and for summer, so we are spreading the load away from Christmas. And we are into a whole range of leisure products—bicycles, paddling pools and so on—which give us wide market appeal. Finally, the growth of electronic games is opening an adult market for us—it is the most significant change to come to this business for years."

Mr Saypol believes it is going to be cheaper over the next few years to borrow money in Europe than in the United States, and he will need a lot of money to finance his expansion.

Anthony Hilton

ster Liner

nel Corporation after £3m Attractions of a deadly business

New York: recession looming it is hard to imagine a deadly business to be than one that is retailing with free spending on toys is sure.

the ebullient Mr Ronald Saypol, president of Lionel Corporation, claims that his recession proof—no matter how bad economy, American parents will buy toys children don't suffer.

is soared in the last recession in 1974", says "And stores in poor areas do just as well as stores in expensive suburbs." is in London this week meeting financial institutions in preparation for having his company listed on the London Stock Exchange on Friday. They are, of course, listed on Wall Street, and such is the safe of investments in the British way that he has already attracted a considerable British following.

our 15 per cent of our equity is currently in institutions in Britain," he said last

el is as famous a name in the American as Hornby or Meccano is in Britain. In the sixties it suffered a similar decline in toy manufacturers of its own, it has two divisions—one a solid and stable manufacturer of electrical components, the other flourishing chain of toy markets.

Later provided the excitement, the form of stability and balance sheet strength make it possible. By the end of this year will have 75 toy supermarkets, mostly of some 30,000 square feet, offering more than 10,000 lines, and should be consolidated as

the third largest toy supermarket chain in America.

Sales of toys are worth \$6,500m a year in the United States, and some 12 per cent of this business is done through supermarkets. But in any area where there is such a store it normally accounts for 40 per cent of the local market. The trend will continue, says Mr Saypol.

In spite of the problem that more than half the business is done in the six weeks round Christmas, it is a highly profitable operation. The company's return on equity last year was denoted by a \$500,000 write-off, but still topped 21 per cent, and Mr Saypol says it is running at well over 25 per cent now. Sales are expected to go from \$300m this year to \$500m by the end of 1983, and profits from \$6.5m after tax last year to \$8m this year, and \$15m by the end of 1983. For the last five years, he says, profits have grown at a compound rate of 34 per cent.

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Anthony Hilton

Bank Base Rates

Sir Ronald McIntosh to chair Fisons' board

Sir Ronald McIntosh has been appointed managing director of Sure Motor Accessories. Mr P. H. Green, general manager, Sun Alliance group, has been elected president of The Insurance Institute of London. Mr B. V. Day, general manager, Ecclesiastical Insurance, was elected deputy president.

Mr D. S. Burnet has been appointed to the main board of Cheshire Group.

Mr Donald Elliott has been appointed to the board of Alfred Booth & Co. Mr Elliott is managing director of Unit Construction Co. Mr Tony Hull, financial controller of Unit Construction, has become a director.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Oils start recovery

DOUGLAS
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BUILDING CONTRACTORS

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LONDON · STOCKTON ON TEES · SWANSEA · WIGAN

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 12. Dealings End, May 30. Contango Day, June 2. Settlement Day, June 9

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Residential property

SAVILLS

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE/NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BORDER

Within 3 miles. Bletchley 12 miles (Euston 38 minutes). Milton Keynes 12 miles. Access 15 miles.

Stately Georgian farmhouse in peaceful rural setting with excellent outbuildings, six reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms including 1 en-suite. Oil fired central heating. Stabling.

On 1st July, 1980 (unless previously sold).

J.S. Country Residential Department, 5 Mount Street, London W1. Tel. 01-499 21100. Tel. 01-499 3535.

IREY/SUSSEX/KENT BORDERS 380 Acres

Within 23 miles. Gatwick Airport 6 miles. South Park and Sunstreet Farms, Godstone, equipped dairy farm with farmhouse, 2 cottages, modern 250 cow dairy unit and small arable and stock farm with farmhouse. Modern livestock buildings and 100 acres of accommodation land in parcels of from 3 to 54 acres.

Available on 23rd June, 1980 (unless previously sold).

Whole or in Lots.

J.S. Country Residential Department, 5 Mount Street, London W1. Tel. 01-499 3535.

ERT. WAY & CO., Bank House, Kinver, Warwickshire. Tel. (0925) 540851.

BUCKSHIRE/BERKSHIRE BORDER

Within 5 miles. Didcot Station 12 miles. London 50 miles.

Listed. Queen Anne farmhouse, extended in a superbly large accommodation and views over the Chilterns. Five reception rooms, study, dining room, 5/6 bedrooms, oil fired central heating. Useful outbuildings, useful garden. About 2 acres.

J.S. Country Residential Department, 5 Mount Street, London W1. Tel. 01-499 3535.

J.S. HEDLEY

About 3 miles. Epsom 4 miles. Large, modernised period house adjoining farmland. Trust land. Excellent communications to London. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil central heating, delightful garden.

About 1.5 Acres.

J.S. Country Residential Department, 5 Mount Street, London W1. Tel. 01-499 3535.

OR. LAMDEN 28 Church Street, Leatherhead, Tel. (0343) 76332.

KENTERSHIRE/WILTSHIRE BORDERS

About 11 Acres

Within 6 miles.

Ingenious Listed. Listed. House of 18th century and standing in a tranquil parkland setting. Hall, 5 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, stabled flat. Outbuildings and garaging. Gardens. About 11 acres.

J.S. Country Residential Department, 5 Mount Street, London W1. Tel. 01-499 3535.

K. HANES. Red Lion House, High Street, Oxford, Tel. (0882) 3361.

London Banbury Beccles Brechin Cambridge Chelmsford Croydon Hereford Lincoln Norwich Salisbury Wimborne York Scotland Guernsey Paris Amsterdam

01-499 864420, Grosvenor Hill, London W1X 0HQ

SURREY

Within London 20 miles. Heathrow 8 miles.

An exceptional manor house overlooking the River Thames



Additional features: About 800 ft. Frontage to the River. For Sale Freehold with about 5½ acres. Apply: LONDON OFFICE, (Tel. 01-629 8171) (RG9873)

BERKSHIRE

Lechlade Hill, Windsor

unique split-level house, in an elevated position with fine views.



Additional features: Superb indoor swimming pool. For Sale Freehold with about ¾ acre. Apply: ASCOT OFFICE, (Tel. 0890 24732) (SW10543)

EMBROKESHIRE

Haverfordwest 5 miles. Haverfordwest 8 miles.

Motorway 55 miles.

exceptional arable farm admirably situated for a wide range of crops. Modernised 4 bedroomed farmhouse. Modern grain store for 200 tons. 9,000 sq. ft. potato chitting houses. Excellent implement and store sheds. Extensive irrigation system. Potato marketing board quota for 250 hectares (700 acres).

For Sale Freehold with about 342 acres (88 hectares).

Public Auction at N.F.U. Building, Haverfordwest on Friday, 1st July at 5.00 pm.

Apply: KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, Hereford Office, (Tel. 0432 3087) (J710184)

BERKSHIRE

Windsor 3 miles. M4 4 miles.

A beautifully restored period house set in its own grounds.



Additional features: Billiard Room, Sun Room, 4 Secondary bedrooms, Staff flat, Paddocks. For Sale Freehold with about 9 acres. Apply: LONDON OFFICE, (Tel. 01-629 8171) and ASCOT OFFICE, (Tel. 0890 24732) (TRH1079)

WILTSHIRE

Malmesbury 9 miles. Andover 12 miles. Hungerford 11 miles.

A well modernised and attractively situated country house.



Additional features: Dressing room, Sun Terrace. For Sale Freehold with about 1 acre. Apply: LONDON OFFICE, (Tel. 01-629 8171) (PRH9765)

HAMPSHIRE

Winchester city centre 1½ miles. M3 10 miles. London 85 miles.

An attractive manor house with early origins and having marvellous views.

Additional features: Wing suitable for modernisation to self-contained unit with 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, Lodge with 3 bedrooms. Two blocks of grassland, also suitable for arable purposes. Cricket ground.

In all about 37 acres.

For sale by auction as a whole or in 5 lots (unless sold previously) on Wednesday 2nd July 1980.

Joint Auctioneers: KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office, (Tel. 01-629 8171) and PEARSONS, Stockbridge, (Tel. 02681 7402)

Solicitors: SHENTON, PITF, WALSH & MOSS, 82 High Street, Winchester SO23 9AD. (Tel. 0926 67361)

For Sale Freehold with about 342 acres (88 hectares).

Public Auction at N.F.U. Building, Haverfordwest on Friday, 1st July at 5.00 pm.

Apply: KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, Hereford Office, (Tel. 0432 3087) (J710184)

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15th century farmhouse with great charm and character in need of imaginative modernisation. 4 beds, 2 bath, 3 recep, kitchen and scullery. Attractive garden with pond and outbuildings extending to about 1.12 acres.

OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD

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Residential property

SURREY—THE NORTH DOWNS

Kingswood 1 mile, Redhill 8 miles, Gatwick 16 miles. Central London 15 miles.

About 250 Acres

Most prestigious country house of 18th Century origin, set in first class commercial dairy farm, set in unsurpassable position on the North Downs. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

Double Garage with Two Bedded Flat over.

Modern Farm Manager's House, 4 semi-detached cottages. Excellent range of modern and traditional farm buildings.

Auction 3rd July, 1980 (unless previously sold).

SAVILLS, Country Residential Department, 5 Mount Street, London W1. Tel. 01-499 8644.

WHITE AND SONS, 104 High Street, Dorking, Tel. (0366) 87554.

About 250 Acres

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tions or alterations, tel:
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of Times Newspapers Limited,
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We make every effort to avoid
errors in advertisements. Each
one is carefully checked and
read. When thousands of
advertisements are handled
each day mistakes do occur and
we ask that you would check
your ad and, if you spot an
error, report it to the Advertised
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by telephone on 01-537 1234
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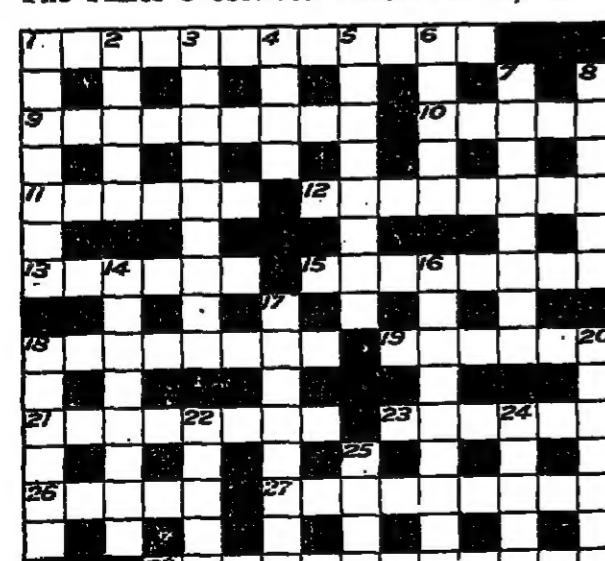
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DON'T MISS THE
VINTAGE AND
CLASSIC
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APPEARING
THIS FRIDAY
MAY 23

"BE STRONG and of a good
courage; for we have a strong
God that will not fail thee, nor
forsake thee." — Deuteronomy
31:6.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,228



ACROSS
1 Action on meeting with
signs of alarm? (7, 5).
5 Cloth neckwear? (3-6).
10 Behind the skipper, for
making work a bloomer? (5).
11 Take a walk north of the
island? (6).
12 Shameless way to go into
poor Tim's case? (8).
13 Kick into wind again? (6).
15 Some sav, severe critics
of strikers? (8).
16 Poe's visitor takes duck
with us—very hungry? (5).
19 Collision caused by mis-
chievous child? (6).
21 Handiwork? (8).
23 Jumpy type seen in
Kent? (6).
26 Irish town court meeting
hasn't started? (5).
27 Fresh support for US
settler? (9).
28 The last thing to tell a
child? (7, 5).

DOWN
1 Cocktail, for some IT
type? (7).
2 A corner in fish? (5).
3 Solitary state supplying
oil—is not a new blend
(9).
4 Swallow, thus a rise in
tobacco? (4).
5 Cary's warning about doc-
tor breaking in—causes
bitterness? (8).

BIRTHS

BRAMLEY—On May 8 in Bandon-
ville, Northern Ireland, to
Anne (née Hooper) and Jean-
Pierrot, son of 15th, 1980, to
Kathy and Ian, son (Benjamin
John) of 10th, 1980, to
John (Christopher) and Waters,
and Peter Alan, a son (Simon
John) of 19th, 1980, to
CHICHESTER—On May 19th to
Cecil and Mary Ruth, 10, Bishop-
gate, beloved son (David, 1979,
now William) and Henry—
and William (Margaret) and Henry—
of 10th, 1980, to John, a son
of 10th, 1980, to Michael and
Sarah, a son (James Christopher),
and 19th, 1980, to Christopher.

CHERNY—On May 19th in Paris,
France, to André and Sophie,
sister (Emily) for Patrick,
and 19th, 1980, to Christopher.

CHILORE—On April 19th, in
Stavros, to Marilou (née
James) and Christos, a son
James (Panayiotis), 1980, to
John and Maria, a son (John
Panayiotis), 1980, to Michael
and Maria, a son (John), 1980,
to Michael and Rodney.

CHRISTIE—On May 19th at Royal
Free Hospital, to Margaret (née
John) and Christopher (John),
son Christopher (John), Robert,
and Sarah.

CLARKE—On May 19th to
Linda, a son (James), a daughter
Katherine Louise, and 19th,
1980, to Michael and Victoria.

MARTIN—On May 19th, in Malvern
and St. Asaph, to Michael (John),
son of 19th, 1980, to Michael
and Roberta, a son (Thomas),
and 19th, 1980, to Michael and
Sarah.

MOBLE—Horace WESTMACOTT—
On May 19th, peacefully in
hospital, after a short illness,
aged 89. Beloved husband of
Edna (née Cresswell) of 31.3.

NOTLEY—On May 17th, peacefully
in his 90th year at home, to
John and 19th, 1980, to Christopher
and Sarah.

MORTBY—On May 15th, Cecil
Pilgrim, 94, of Dilling, Kent,
father and friend. Service at
church, followed by private
cremation.

PETTON JONES—On May 15th
in Amanda and Richard, a son
of 19th, 1980, to Richard, a son
of 19th, 1980, to Amanda and
Richard.

REED—On May 19th, in
Weymouth, to Michael and
Sarah, a son (John), 1980, to
Michael and Rodney.

ROBINSON—On May 19th, in
Buntingford, to Michael and
Sarah, a son (John), 1980, to
Michael and Rodney.

ROSE—On May 19th, in
Huntington, to Michael and
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